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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART XX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

1900.

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MAPS/PLANS
RECORDED

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Morocco.

PART 20.

No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 4, 1900.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 30, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 1st ultimo, I have the honour to report that I inquired of the Spanish Minister yesterday whether he had received final instructions from his Government in regard to the communication to be addressed to the Moorish Government respecting the measures it is proposed to take to prohibit piracy and contraband trade on the Riff coast, as time was passing by and I was withholding the transmission of my note till all the Representatives were in a position to reply to the Moorish proposals. M. de Ojeda informed me that his Government had requested to be supplied with further information as to the nature of the replies which other Legations had already transmitted, or proposed to transmit, to the Moorish Government on the subject. This information M. de Ojeda intended to furnish, and he told me in confidence that he gathered from a private communication he had received from the Spanish Foreign Office that the Italian Government had intimated to M. de Silvela that it was disposed to accept the Moorish proposals as they stood, which would lead to what M. de Ojeda terms a commercial blockade of the Riff coast, which would not only be in contravention of the Spanish Treaties, but also injuriously affect legitimate and innocent trade and seriously hamper the provisioning of the Spanish posts on the coast.

The German, Austrian, French, and, I believe, the Russian Legations have already sent in their notes, which are practically in the same sense as my draft note which has received your Lordship's approval.

I told M. de Ojeda that the Moorish Commissioner had recently sent me a message begging for a reply, but that I could send none till all my colleagues were prepared to deliver their communications. If the Italian Legation were instructed to address a note of a different tenour to that on which apparently we were all agreed, I should naturally have to refer the matter afresh to your Lordship, but that I trusted that when the details of the question were fully explained to the Italian Government, if that had not already been done, it would also fall into line with the rest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 2.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 7. Africa.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 9, 1900.

IT was announced the day before yesterday that the scientific mission under M. Flamant had, after some fighting, occupied Insalah; and this news has excited much gratification in Paris, as the oases, of which Insalah is the principal one, have been for so long the head-quarters of the roving tribes of Bedouins and Tauregs, who resorted thither for supplies of arms and ammunition.

It is stated that at the Cabinet Council held at the Elysée this morning the Algerian despatches reporting the occupation were discussed, and that it was decided to maintain the occupation.

It is, of course, held here that the Hinterland doctrine fully justifies this annexation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 3.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 4, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 140 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that I learn that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, having received instructions from the Court to engage officers for the Moorish cruiser "El Bachir," has commissioned the recently-appointed German Commander to select four engineers and one mate, with whom a contract will be made for one year.

The Commander has left for Germany for the purpose of selecting suitable men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 4.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 11. Africa.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 11, 1900.

I HAD a short conversation yesterday with M. Delcassé respecting the French occupation of the oasis of In Salah, to which my despatch No. 7, Africa, of the 9th instant refers.

His Excellency said that the Mission headed by M. Flamand was by no means a numerous one, and that its success was all the more satisfactory. M. Flamand himself is a distinguished professor of natural history, and M. Delcassé thought he had but one assistant with him, besides a European sergeant and 150 Spahis. Of course, reinforcements would be sent up to him as rapidly as possible.

Of In Salah itself M. Delcassé did not profess to know much, except that it and the neighbouring oases were the resort of the nomad hordes, which were always a danger to the caravans. These caravans, he believed, traversed the district of In Salah both from north to south and from west to east.

The "Havas" Agency of this morning announces that, in consequence of the decision taken by the Cabinet at Paris, the Governor-General of Algeria has decided, in concert with the military authorities, that a supporting force should be collected at El Goléah in aid of the reinforcements sent on the 6th instant to the assistance of M. Flamand's Mission, and that these forces should survey, if necessary, the districts not yet occupied.

The telegraph line which now stops at El Goléah is to be immediately prolonged to Fort Mirebel, and eventually to In Salah; and it is hoped that the first section of the line will be completed by the 1st March next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 5.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 29.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord. *Tangier, January* 18, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Commissioner, Sid Benasser Ghannam, took the opportunity of an interview with me in connection with other matters to inquire whether I had received any authentic information regarding recent French action at Insalah.

I replied that I had no news further than what I had read in the papers, but that there appeared to me to be no reason to doubt that the accounts they contained were substantially correct.

In reply to my inquiries, Sid Benasser Ghannam informed me that no confirmation of these reports had been received from the Court. I have, however, heard from a private source at the Court that a deputation from Tuat has been at Marakesh some time asking the Sultan for help to resist the French, but that the Sultan is afraid to accede even to their request for arms, on account, as it is supposed, of the French Legation having warned him against doing so, and threatened to hold him responsible for the consequences if he did.

I have also heard from another private source that the French have raised the question of the Algerian frontier, and that the Moorish Government have sent to report on the question. My informant does not state what part of the frontier he refers to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 6.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 28, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires, M. de la Martinière, having now returned after a week's absence in the interior, I inquired of him whether the accounts that have appeared in the press of recent events at Insalah were correct.

M. de la Martinière replied that he would explain to me quite frankly all that had passed, as there was no reason for concealment. He had been for some years on the staff in Algeria, and was well acquainted with the whole question.

Algeria is divided into three distinct belts, the fertile region near the coast, known as the Tell, the less fertile intermediate uplands, and the Sahara with its oases. The people inhabiting these three regions are dependent on each other, there being constant intercourse amongst them for the interchange of produce. There has consequently sprung up in the oases a large party with French sympathies, and they, disgusted by misrule and insecurity, have frequently urged the French to take possession of their country. Moreover, the want of government in the oases and the lawlessness of the inhabitants was a standing menace to the peace in Southern Algeria, and the French Government had long realized that sooner or later they would be obliged to occupy the Tuat group of oases, Gourara, Tuat and Tidikelt, which are situated in the Hinterland of Western Algeria, and which commercially and politically, as well as geographically, belong to that Colony. This has been maintained by successive French Governments, especially since the Anglo-French Agreement of 1890; it has merely been a question of awaiting a convenient time for actually taking possession.

It is true that the Moorish Government has laid claim to sovereignty over these oases, but the only grounds for this claim are that some former Sultans had once exercised sovereignty there. The same had been alleged of M'zab before its annexation to Algeria, and might as truly be said of Timbuctoo, and of Tlemçen, and of other districts in Algeria.

Although the intention of advancing to Insalah has long existed, it would probably not have been carried into effect for some time but for fortuitous circumstances.

Reports having been made to the French Government of the existence of deposits of phosphates and nitrates in South-West Algeria, M. Flamant had been commissioned to make a geological survey of that region, and was provided with a small escort of 150 men for his protection. He had been engaged on this purely scientific mission for about three years, and had lately pushed into the Tidikelt oasis where he had been attacked in the same manner as the Flatter's mission. Happily his escort had succeeded in beating off their assailants, and had seized Kzar-el-Arb so as to be in a position to defend themselves from further attack. M. Flamant had at once reported the occurrence to El-Golea and a small force had been dispatched to his assistance.

M. de la Martinière added that the occupation of Insalah, which had thus been forced upon them, would doubtless be maintained, the majority of the people there being desirous of passing under French rule. He could not, however, say whether the occupation would be at once extended to the adjoining oases of Tuat and Gourara, where French partisans are very numerous; but sooner or later, whenever it might be convenient, they would be occupied.

In answer to my inquiry, M. de la Martinière stated that no communication had been received at the French Legation from the Moorish Government regarding the occupation of Insalah. He did not propose himself to address them on the subject, as he considered that it did not concern them.

The Sultan should be pleased to see a strong Government established in these oases, which had frequently caused troubles in Morocco.

It had been reported that the object of M. de la Martinière's visit to Alcazar, accompanied by the Dragoman of the French Legation, was to meet the principal Wazzan Shereef and persuade him to proceed to Insalah in order to use his religious influence there on behalf of the French, and some confirmation appeared to be lent to this supposition by the fact that some Wazzan Shereefs went to Alcazar to meet him. I inquired incidentally whether there was any idea of using the influence of the Wazzan Shereefs in those regions, but he denied it, observing that, though at the time of Gerhard Rohlf's visit to Insalah in 1864 the Shereef of Wazzan had considerable influence there, it is no longer so, the Algerian Shereefs of Laghouat having, in fact, a larger following in the oases than the Wazzan family.

I understand that Sid Benasser Ghannam has sent to the Court full reports of all that has appeared in the press regarding the French action at Insalah, but some time must elapse before any communication the Vizier may address to the French Legation can be received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 7.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 29, 1900.

THERE exists at Tangier a considerable Spanish colony consisting almost entirely of the lower classes, a number of whom, with Socialist or Anarchist views, have lately been creating some commotion in the town. The latest phase of their agitation has been to induce their fellow-workmen to strike, and at the present moment all the journeymen shoemakers are on strike, those who are content to work not having the courage to do so.

A British subject in the shoe trade lately complained to me that, his workmen having struck, he procured others from Spain, where the wages were lower than those paid here, but that on arrival they had been threatened by the men on strike, and dared not work, and had consequently returned to Spain. The British subject added that he had received anonymous threatening letters, and was in fear of suffering some violence.

As with the exception of one or two Gibraltarians all the agitators and men on strike are Spaniards, I brought the matter to the notice of the Spanish Consul, but I explained to the British subject that unless he could prove that force or threats had been used it would be difficult for him to prosecute.

The men on strike have been somewhat noisy in their demonstrations, parading the town with red flags and a band, and congregating outside the bootmakers' shops, indulging in Anarchist cries and so forth, but no case of violence has been reported to me. The French Chargé d'Affaires and the German Minister have, however, both spoken to me on the subject this afternoon, and stated that they were reporting the matter to their Governments. The German Minister especially regards the situation as grave. He states that he has heard of two cases where small parties of men on strike have demanded money from a passer-by, and he fears that if steps are not taken to check the movement, acts of violence will probably be committed.

He had spoken on the subject to the Spanish Minister, who had declared himself powerless to deal with so large a Spanish colony without a proper police force, and had reverted to the suggestion he had made three years since of establishing a force of Spanish Guardia Civil or Carabineers at Tangier.

Baron von Mentzingen told me that he had reported the matter to his Government with a view to their consulting the other Powers, as he considered that something ought to be done, either by allowing the Spanish Minister to have his Guardia Civil as he desired, or by establishing a body of international police.

I reminded Baron von Mentzingen that the question had been discussed three years since, but unfortunately without any result. I said that, personally, I saw no objection to the Spanish Government sending a number of civil policemen here, but that I thought it would be establishing a dangerous precedent to have Guardia Civil or Carabineers in uniform and with arms, as other Powers would probably also establish such forces, and confusion would ensue. I added that I was under the impression that the Spanish authorities here had greater power to put down any dangerous movement than M. de Ojeda appeared willing to admit, for they could summarily deport any Spaniard at a moment's notice, and though they only have a detective with a few men under him, they could always request the Basha to send soldiers to assist them if required.

Personally, I am not inclined to view the position of affairs in so serious a light as the German Minister, and I believe that the shoemakers' strike is likely to come to an end very shortly, as previous strikes have. The action of the agitators, however, requires careful watching by the Spanish authorities, who, I believe, could, if they desire, deal with them if they transgress the law.

On the other hand there can be no doubt that the establishment of an efficient police force, with power to deal with persons of all nationalities, is urgently required at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 8.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 4, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, on the subject of the occupation of In-Salah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Paris, February* 3, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, the following details which have been published with reference to the occupation of In-Salah.

Captain Pein, Commandant at Ouargla, who first penetrated into the Tidikelt, had 150 Goumiers at his disposal when he fought his engagement on the 28th December. He was almost immediately joined by Captain Germain, commanding the squadron of Saharien Spahis occupying El-Golea.

Attacked on the 5th January, these two officers defeated the 1,200 Touatins, who wished to drive them out of In-Salah.

The Goumiers ordered up from El-Golea should have reached In-Salah by the 14th ultimo.

Captain Baumgarten, with a company of Saharien Tirailleurs and the other half of the Saharien Spahis from El-Golea, arrived at In-Salah at midnight on the 18th ultimo. He found all well and quiet had not been disturbed since the attack on the 5th, the leaders of which have been punished. Over eighty of the wounded enemy had been cared for, and the oasis is reported to be rich in vegetation.

The El-Golea garrison, which still had a company of the 1st regiment Algerian Tirailleurs, has been reinforced by a company of the 2nd battalion d'Afrique, half a squadron of the 1st Spahis regiment, and a section of mountain artillery sent from Laghouat.

Laghouat is to be strengthened by the arrival of two companies of the 1st Tirailleurs from Medeah, of which doubtless one will go to El-Golea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 9.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 7. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 31, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 142 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister inquired of me to-day whether I had received any fresh instructions from your Lordship regarding the measures the Moorish Government proposed to take for the suppression of piracy and contraband trade on the Riff coast. On my replying in the negative, M. de Ojeda informed me that his Government did not share his views on this question, but concurred in the Italian suggestion to accept the Moorish proposals as they stood. He showed me a despatch he had received from his Government informing him that the Spanish Ambassador at London had reported on the 18th instant that your Lordship had agreed to adopt the same course, and would instruct me to accept the Moorish proposals, and to co-operate with him in endeavouring to overcome any opposition that might be offered to them from other quarters.

I informed M. de Ojeda that I had not yet received any further instructions from your Lordship, but that I would not fail to communicate with him at once should such instructions reach me. M. de Ojeda appeared put out at the course adopted at Madrid, to which he was much opposed, as he considered it would put an end to all trade with the Riff tribes, and was contrary to the terms of the Spanish Treaty. He observed that his Government was under the impression that these measures would foster the trade of Melilla with the Riff, but that they would find themselves mistaken, for goods could not pass through hostile tribes. He added that as several of our colleagues had already replied to the Moorish note declining to agree to the proposals as being contrary to Treaty, their acceptance by some of the Powers would be useless, for the proposals could not be acted upon until they were accepted by all.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 10.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 2, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 28th ultimo, I learn from a private source at the Court that news has now reached them from Tuat, it having been reported that an encounter had taken place between the natives and French troops under a Captain, in which the latter were victorious, taking two local Governors prisoners.

My informant was also told by a Court official that the French are active in the neighbourhood of Figuig, where they are erecting a building supposed to be intended for a railway station for the line which it is believed will be extended from Ain Sefra and Jenan Bourezig.

The official stated that it was feared at the Court that the French would take advantage of England's preoccupation in South Africa to adopt a forward policy on the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 15, 1900.

MR. WHITE'S despatch No. 4 of the 18th ultimo.

I learn from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that a Commissioner is being sent by the Moorish Government to meet the French Commissioner at Oojda in order to delimitate the frontier in the direction of Figuig.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 7, 1900.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 7 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from Cid Benasser Ghannam, requesting a reply to the proposals which the Moorish Government had made for the suppression of piracy and contraband trade on the Riff coast.

With your Lordship's concurrence, I was withholding the communication of the British reply until all the Representatives had received instructions to deliver their answers.

The position of the question is as follows:—

The French, German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian Representatives have already replied to the effect that, while they approve of the object the Moorish Government have in view, they are unable to subscribe to measures which would seriously hamper, if not entirely prohibit, legitimate and innocent trade. The door was, nevertheless, left open to further proposals from the Moorish Government.

The Belgian Minister has been instructed to send in a reply similar to that communicated by the German Legation, and of which I sent your Lordship a copy in my despatch No. 124 of the 1st November last.

The Portuguese Representative has, I understand, received instructions to follow the course which may be adopted by the majority of the Representatives, while the Italian and United States' Legations are still without instructions.

The Spanish Minister was, until recently, in communication with his Government on the subject; but he showed me this morning a despatch which he had received from his Government informing him that I had been instructed by your Lordship to accept the Moorish proposals as they stood, and to co-operate with him in an endeavour to remove any difficulties which might be raised against them in other quarters.

I told M. de Ojeda that hitherto I had received no instructions to that effect, and that it seemed to me that such a course would produce some confusion, as it would be hardly possible to induce those Representatives who had already sent in their notes to withdraw them; while if Spain and Great Britain were to adopt a line divergent from the others the whole question would be suspended indefinitely. M. de Ojeda agreed with me, and observed that it would be very unfortunate if unanimity were not attained.

Personally, I am unable to understand the objections of the Spanish Government to adopting the course which has been followed by most of the Legations here. The Moorish proposal to interdict all sea-borne traffic with the Riff coast in native boats would, as I have explained in former despatches, cut off to a great extent all commerce with many of the Riff tribes. This would affect the Gibraltar trade, and would, in the opinion of most of my colleagues, run counter to Treaty stipulations.

It would not be difficult to devise measures of supervision and control which would meet the very legitimate desires of the Moorish Government to suppress piracy and contraband, without unduly hampering innocent trade. Such measures could be discussed with the Moorish Government, and I gather that all my colleagues would enter into such discussions in a friendly spirit. I think that a reasonable and practical compromise could be arranged.

I have not yet replied to the note of Cid Benasser Ghannam, and will await further instructions from your Lordship before doing so; but I trust that I may be allowed to reply in the sense of my draft note, which is practically similar to that addressed by the French Legation, and enunciates the same views, though in a more expanded form, as those expressed in the notes already delivered by the German, Austrian, and Russian Legations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Cid Benasser Ghannam to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *5 Showal*, 1317 (*February 5*, 1900).

I HAD informed your Excellency on the 8th Rabia II last of the decision of the Makhzen-es-Sharif. May its glory continue, to prohibit the passage of boats, &c., along the Riff coast, with the exceptions made regarding the natives solely, for the reason explained to you on the said date, which is the first of the six months' term conceded for that purpose as informed you, and the end of this term is now approaching, there remaining only a few days, but up to the present I have not had a reply from you. It is, therefore, hoped that your Excellency will hasten to do so, as time passes greatly, and the Makhzen—God exalt it—has renewed its Shereefian instructions to me, asking that it be hastened.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) BENASSER GHANNAM.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 8*, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 17th August last, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Beida informs me that the Moorish Government has paid all the claims, with the exception of two, due to British merchants on account of the pillage of the M'zab Kasbah in 1896. The two outstanding claims are still under discussion with the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 17*, 1900.

MY telegram No. 1 of the 15th instant.

I am now informed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that he was misinformed about the report as to the delimitation of the frontier, and that it is inexact.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Count Rascon.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, February 22*, 1900.

WITH reference to the conversations which I had with you on the 10th ultimo and on the 21st instant with regard to the proposals made by the Moorish Government for the suppression of piracy and contraband trade on the Riff coast, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco some time ago prepared and communicated to the foreign Representatives at Tangier the answer which, in his opinion, should be made to those proposals.

It was to the effect that Her Majesty's Government approved in principle the proposals of the Moorish Government, but that in view of the difficulty of communicating with the Riff tribes by land, and of the provisions of certain Treaties, it would seem desirable to make some modifications which would admit of innocent commerce with the Riff coast under proper restrictions.

Answers in the same sense have already been presented by the French, Austro-Hungarian, German, and Russian Representatives.

It was originally the intention of Sir Arthur Nicolson to withhold his note until all his colleagues had received instructions to deliver their answers, but, in view of the wish expressed by the Spanish Government for a speedy settlement of the question, he suggested that he should no longer delay sending in his reply, and his suggestion has been approved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 13*, 1900.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has reported that a Jewess of Zarhon lately intrusted her young son by a former marriage to a Moor under British protection named Lamarti to take with him to Fez to visit some Jewish friends of hers there. The boy, however, would not leave Lamarti, and returned with him to Zarhon, refusing even to go back to his mother on the plea that his stepfather ill-treated him.

Lamarti subsequently took the boy, who is only 8 years of age, back to Fez, and on the mother following them and claiming her son he declined to surrender him on the grounds that he had embraced the Mahommedan faith.

The mother not knowing that Lamarti was under British protection, applied to the Viceroy at Fez, to whom Lamarti handed over the boy to deal with as he thought right. The Viceroy examined the boy himself and sent him to two Cadis, who decided that the boy was undoubtedly a Moslem, and should live amongst Moslems, where his mother might accompany him, but not his stepfather, and that if she declined the boy would become a ward of the Viceroy, as Representative of the Sultan.

The mother subsequently, having learned that Lamarti was under British protection, applied to Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, who pointed out to her that she herself had put the case in the hands of the Viceroy, from whose hands it would now be very difficult to take him, and that he would apply to this Legation for instructions.

A short time after the mother induced the boy to come into the street, and then had him carried off by a cousin, but the Viceroy's soldiers pursued them and recovered the boy.

Mr. Macleod is of opinion that if the mother will have patience and see and attend to the boy she will in all probability win him back before long and get him away voluntarily and quietly.

I have, however, thought it right to place your Lordship in possession of all the particulars of the case, as it is not unlikely that a representation may be made to your Lordship on the subject by some of the Jewish Societies in London.

Whilst it would be difficult for Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod to take any steps now that would result in the boy being given up by the Viceroy, it appears to me that the part played in the matter by the British protégé calls for some notice. It is clear that he concealed from the mother the fact of his being under British protection, and handed over the child to the Moorish authorities.

I learn on inquiry that Lamarti, though protected nominally as the Vice-Consul's "groom," is really not in his service, but was so entered by direction of Sir C. Euan-Smith, who desired to extend protection to him in connection with some case in which he was being unjustly treated.

The protection is irregular, and when the time comes for the renewal of his certificate I would propose, with your Lordship's approval, to abstain from continuing it. The withdrawal of the certificate would not, in the circumstances, lead to any unjust treatment towards him by the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1900.

A MEETING of the Diplomatic Body was held on the 10th instant to continue the examination of the Moorish proposals respecting the right of protection in Morocco, and a point was raised on which I should like to receive your Lordship's instructions.

The point is independent of any agreement being arrived at or not with respect to the general questions raised in the Moorish proposals, and so I venture to trouble your Lordship on the subject at the present moment.

The Moorish Government have requested that the stipulations of the Madrid Convention should be strictly observed in the matter of granting semsar certificates; and, in consequence, desires that in future no such certificates should be issued to foreign commercial houses who are not established in Morocco, either by their principal place of business or by a properly constituted branch office.

All the Representatives present at the meeting agreed to this, and stated that they would not, in future, grant semsar certificates to non-resident firms. The United States' Representative was not present at the meeting, but he informs me that there is no American house of business established in Morocco, and as there is considerable trade in hides with the United States he grants semsars' certificates to the agents of a few of the principal houses engaged in that business, but who have no branch offices established in Morocco. He is not disposed to abandon this practice and in any case would not do so without instructions from his Government.

There are several British firms who have no branch establishments here, and yet do a considerable trade with Morocco. Semsar certificates have been for several years past granted to their agents in this country. I am told that originally the issue of these certificates was refused, but as it was found that the French Legation made no difficulty in granting them to their nationals in similar circumstances, it was considered that British commercial houses should not be placed on a less favourable footing.

In his despatch No. 49, of June 1883, the late Sir J. Drummond Hay stated that he inquired of the Moorish Commissioner whether commercial firms, who had not a branch establishment in Morocco, were entitled to semsars, and that the Commissioner replied in the negative, as such agents, he contended, would be contrary to the terms of the Madrid Convention.

This view is now accepted by my colleagues, with the exception of the United States' Representative, and they are of opinion that a branch establishment is necessary to entitle a non-resident firm to semsars. Such branch establishment must either be registered as such in the competent Consulate, or would be considered as existing if the agent of the non-resident firm possessed the power of signing on behalf of his principles. A simple agency for buying and selling would, in their opinion, not constitute a branch establishment, and would not, consequently, be entitled to semsars. I do not know if your Lordship would subscribe to this view. The withdrawal of semsars from non-resident British firms, who do a considerable trade with this country, might be inconvenient to them, and they might not be in a position to establish a branch office here, or might hesitate to give signatory powers to their agents.

Moreover, commerce in Morocco requires, in present circumstances, to be surrounded with all possible safeguards.

There appears to be no express stipulatiou, either in the Madrid Convention or in the French Convention of 1863, which would exclude non-resident firms or merchants from possessing semsars; but the general opinion seems to be that the sense of the Convention is contrary to the grant of semsars to non-residents.

For the current year I propose to make no alteration, but I would be grateful if your Lordship would inform me whether in future I should follow the course now to be pursued by the majority of the Legation, or whether I should continue the existing practice till the United States' Representative also acts in accordance with the views of the majority.

I might, perhaps, ascertain from the non-resident British firms whether they would be indisposed to take such measures as would get over the difficulty by establishing branch offices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—The Italian Chargé d'Affaires was not present at the meeting, but he tells me that he shares the opinion of the majority. There are two Italian non-resident firms who possess semsars. He will not move in the matter, as he considers he is only here temporarily to carry on the current business of the Legation during the Minister's absence at the Court.

A. N.

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 15, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister informed me this morning that he feared he might have a very disagreeable question with the Moorish Government which caused him considerable perplexity. The Commandant of the Sultan's troops in the Riff districts had forbidden all intercourse between the tribes and the Spanish posts at Alhucemas and Peñon, with the result that these two places were unable to supply themselves with any fresh provisions from the interior, and was forced to depend for supplies on the weekly mail boat from Malaga. This interdict on the part of the Commandant was not only contrary to the Treaties with Spain, but also subjected the inhabitants of Alhucemas and Peñon to certain inconveniences, besides placing the Spanish authorities in a somewhat humiliating position.

Representations from the Spanish local authorities to the Moorish Commandant had had no result, as the latter stated that he was acting under orders from the Sultan. The notes which the Spanish Minister had addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject had remained without any reply, and M. de Ojeda said that he recently received instructions from M. de Silvela to address what was practically an ultimatum to the Moorish Government demanding the raising of the interdict and the dismissal of the Moorish Commandant within a specified time.

M. de Ojeda was desirous, if possible, of avoiding this serious measure and therefore informed the Sultan's deputy here of the substance of the instructions which he had received. Cid Mohamed Torres begged him to allow a few more days to elapse before addressing such a note, and assured M. de Ojeda that he was expecting daily a reply from the Court to the despatches which he had written about a month ago, in which he

explained that the action of the Commandant was contrary to the Treaties, of which he had sent copies to the Moorish Government in support of his view. Cid Mohamed Torres felt sure that the Moorish Government, on receipt of his despatches, would satisfactorily arrange the matter; and, therefore, he trusted M. de Ojeda would have a little patience.

M. de Ojeda told Cid Mohamed Torres that he would retain his note for another ten days, which would expire on the 21st instant, but that if he received no satisfactory or reassuring reply by then he would be obliged to deliver it.

He told me privately that he really intended to be more liberal in the delay accorded, and that if difficulties were raised as to the dismissal of the Commandant he would be content with that functionary making public apologies to the authorities at the two Spanish ports.

He was perplexed as to what measures he should propose to his Government, supposing he found it impossible to obtain satisfaction. Naval demonstrations and bombardments appeared to involve very serious risks, and he feared an occupation of Mogador might give rise to other complications. I agreed with him as to these points, but in reply to an inquiry as to what I could suggest, I did not think it desirable or advisable to offer any advice or suggestion.

M. de Ojeda said he had suggested privately to M. de Silvela to communicate the whole correspondence on the subject to the British and French Embassies at Madrid so that they might clearly see the position of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 15, 1900.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 8 of the 2nd instant, I am privately informed from the Court that it is believed there that the French authorities will endeavour to prolong the railway line from Djanan Borsegh, its present terminus, to Figuig, as they are reported to be constructing two stations between these places. It is also reported at the Court that the French have opened a large market at Djanan Borsegh, and have posted placards announcing that the market is only for the tribes on the Moorish side of the frontier, and that they are doing what is possible to attract these tribes by offering them many facilities for selling their goods. This news, it is said, has caused considerable anxiety at the Court, as it is feared the inducements offered by the French may make an impression on the neighbouring tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 20.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 14 of the 13th instant, giving an account of the conduct of Lamarti, a Moor under British protection, to a Jewess who had intrusted her child to his care.

I approve your intention, as expressed in that despatch, not to renew Lamarti certificate when the period for which it is now running expires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15 of the 14th instant relative to the request of the Moorish Government that no semsar certificates should be issued to foreign commercial houses who are not established in Morocco.

Before any decision is arrived at in the matter, it will be advisable that you should, as suggested in your despatch, endeavour to ascertain from non-resident British firms who at present employ semsars whether they would be willing to get over the difficulty which has arisen by establishing branch offices in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 21, 1900.*

FROM private information which I have received from the Court, I am given to understand that the Grand Vizier now views the occupation of Insaleh by the French with more equanimity, as his Excellency has received assurances from the French Agent at the Court that there is no intention to encroach on Moorish territory.

The action of the French in the neighbourhood of Figuig, reported in my despatch No. 17 of the 15th instant, will, however, continue to exercise the watchfulness and anxiety of the Moorish authorities; though I am not certain that considerable latitude would not be tacitly allowed to French activity even in those regions if the avarice of the Grand Vizier, which has become a predominant and all-absorbing passion, received some gratification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 23.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 1, 1900.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office have any information bearing upon the report that Tafilet, in Morocco, has been occupied by French troops.

Answer.

No. We have no information.

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 14th instant, relative to the grant of Semsar certificates to agents of firms not resident in Morocco, I have gathered, since the meeting of the Diplomatic Body, from the French Chargé d'Affaires that he gives a wide interpretation to the meaning of a branch establishment. At the meeting he stated that all French houses, resident or not, had now complied with the letter and spirit of the Madrid Convention; and that, therefore, the permissible number of

Semsars was granted to them. M. de la Martinière now tells me that he considers an agent of a non-resident house, whether he possesses power of signing or not, who keeps proper accounts with his principal, and is, in fact, his representative in Morocco fully answers to the meaning of a "branch establishment," and that, therefore, he does not hesitate to give him a Semsar's certificate.

As all the agents of the British non-resident houses are in a similar category, I would propose to continue the issue of certificates to them so long as these views are held by the French and United States' Representatives; although, as I stated in my above-mentioned despatch, I do not think they find general support among my other colleagues, nor indeed are in unison with those adopted originally by this Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 24, 1900.

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 1 of the 17th instant, I addressed on the 19th instant to the Sultan's Commissioner here the note relative to the proposed coast-guard measures on the Riff Coast, of which I transmitted to your Lordship a copy in my despatch No. 124 of the 1st November, 1899.

Cid Benasser Ghannam, the Commissioner in question, was calling on me on the 22nd instant, and he took the opportunity of expressing his thanks for the communication which he had received. He inquired what modifications in the Moorish proposals would, in my opinion, be likely to remove the objections which had been raised to the project as it stood. I told Cid Benasser Ghannam that it seemed to me that if the Moorish Authorities were to grant licenses to certain Riff boats to transport cargoes to and from Moorish ports to certain indicated points on the Riff Coast where Moorish customs officials were stationed, a sufficient control and supervision would thus be exercised, and legitimate trade would not be hampered. He would have an opportunity of discussing these matters with the foreign Representatives, and so far as I could ascertain all my colleagues were disposed to treat the question in a conciliatory and friendly spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 2, 1900.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 5 of the 28th January, I have the honour to report that Muley Hamed, one of the most important of the Wazzan Shereefs, has been here for the last few days, and is shortly leaving for Algeria. I have reason to believe that he is charged with a Mission to the Tuat districts, and will employ his influence among the tribes there in view of possible further French movements in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 27.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 2, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister is leaving Tangier early next month to present his credentials to the Sultan. M. de Ojeda has been Minister here for about five years, but has hitherto been unable to pay a visit to the Shereefian Court.

I inquired of him to-day whether he proposed dealing, when at Court, with the question of the delimitation of the neutral zone at Melilla. M. de Ojeda replied that he could not give me a positive reply at present, as he had not received final instructions; but he gathered that his Government shared his view that it would be well to allow the Treaty stipulation as to the Melilla neutral zone to lapse. The zone would afford no additional protection to Melilla, and its delimitation would necessitate the eviction of several Riff families who were resident in the zone, and such measures would cause considerable ill-will. By announcing to the Moorish Government that his Government did not propose to insist on the execution of the above-mentioned stipulation, M. de Ojeda expected to obtain some equivalent, such as the establishment by the Moorish Government of a custom-house on the Ceuta lines, and the consequent opening of trade with the neighbouring districts through that port.

Another question on which he intended to treat with the Moorish Government was to allow the Ceuta authorities to carry pipes to some springs on the slope of the Gibel Musa Mountain. Ceuta was in need of good potable water, and he thought no objection could be raised to this concession, as in case of war the supply could be cut off without difficulty.

He characterized as pure moonshine the statements which had appeared in some Spanish papers that he was to negotiate for the cession of some territory round Ceuta. There was no intention of raising any questions of that nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 2, 1900.

I INQUIRED of M. de Ojeda to-day how his question stood with the Moorish Government in regard to the action of the Moorish authorities towards the Spanish ports of Alhucemas and Peñon, on which I reported in my despatch No. 16 of the 15th ultimo.

M. de Ojeda said he was withholding his note on the subject for another four or five days, and he intended to make its tone less peremptory than as originally drafted. His Government had left in his hands the arrangement of the question, and he proposed to render the minatory portion of the note vague and undefined.

As M. de Ojeda is proceeding so soon to the Court, the question, I should imagine, would be treated in a more satisfactory manner personally with the Grand Vizier, and the necessity of an ultimatum be avoided. I presume this is also the view of M. de Ojeda, though he did not tell me so explicitly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1900.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that he received a visit from the Moorish official who is shortly proceeding to Ujdah to meet the Amin of that place, with the object of selecting sites for blockhouses on the Moorish-Algerian frontier.

The Moorish official, whose name is Hadj Hamed Benshoeron, informed Mr. Macleod that he and his companion had been commissioned to prepare plans and estimates for two blockhouses, each to accommodate about 500 infantry. One blockhouse is to be erected at Ullakak, and the other at Wad Dermel. Two sites are, however, to be selected at Ullakak in case the Moorish Government may hereafter prefer to have the second blockhouse there rather than at Wad Dermel.

Hadj Benshoeron was of opinion that a considerable time would elapse before the blockhouses were completed, and till he had visited the localities he was unaware whether

there were building materials in the vicinity. He added that the French had built what he termed a large "trading house" at their railway station at Djnan Burzegh.

Mr. Macleod remarks "that as the Moorish part of the Dermel lies in the direct line between the railway station and Figuig, I should not be surprised if the intention of the Moorish Government is ultimately to have a custom-house at the Wad Dermel block-house, for, of course, there will be a strong tendency for the Figuig population to procure their European goods and sell their produce at Djnan Burzegh."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 5, 1900.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that Moulai Saïd, the eldest son of the Shereef of Tamsloht, called upon me recently bearing a letter from his father, of which I beg leave to transmit a translation. I had already heard that the Shereef, a man of advanced years, had been seriously ill, and had been much troubled as to the future of his family. He has not, hitherto, mentioned to me directly that protection should be continued to his three sons; and he is unaware that I have been in correspondence with your Lordship on the subject.

Moulai Saïd, an intelligent young man of about thirty, explained fully to me the anxieties of his father and the difficulties of the situation, and urged that he might be authorized to convey back to the Shereef such assurances as would set his mind at rest, and secure to the family the peaceable enjoyment of their property and of their position. He pointed out that were his father to die while he and his brothers were without protection, the Government would undoubtedly lay hands on all the property, reduce them to destitution, and not improbably place them in prison. This eventuality, if they are all unprotected is, I believe, quite possible.

I suggested to Moulai Saïd that the difficulties to which he alluded might be obviated if his father left all his property to him, as eldest son, with charges upon it for the benefit of his brothers, and if protection were accorded to him alone, Moulai Saïd feared that this would be insufficient. The Government would lay hands on his brothers, and by persecuting them and detaining them extort from him a great portion of the family fortune.

I may mention that the family is a closely united one, and no doubt pressure of the kind indicated by Moulai Saïd would exercise great influence over him.

I questioned Moulai Saïd whether, in the event of his father's death, he would naturally succeed to the headship of the sanctuary, the post which confers on the Shereef the high position and influence which he holds and exercises, and also is a source of a considerable portion of his revenues. He assured me that undoubtedly the headship of the sanctuary was hereditary in the direct line and that the Government had no concern with it.

The Government hold a different view, and I would respectfully refer your Lordship to what occurred in 1897, when with some difficulty an intention on the part of the Government to transfer the guardianship of the sanctuary to a collateral branch of the family was defeated. I have marked in the margin my despatches which reported that incident.*

British protection was originally granted to the Shereef in 1894 to prevent this personage from obtaining French protection, and to frustrate the establishment in the south of Morocco of a centre of French political propaganda and influence such as are exercised through the Shereefs of Wazzan throughout a large part of this Empire. This was explained at the time to the Moorish Government privately by my predecessor, and apparently acquiesced in by them.

The case then stands as follows: I admit that, after my conversation with Moulai Saïd, protection to one son alone might prove insufficient; to grant protection to all three sons would doubtless be putting a severe strain on the interpretation of the Madrid

* No. 1, January 4; No. 14, January 29; No. 43, April 5; No. 53, April 21; No. 58, May 3, 1897.

Convention, and might raise some troublesome questions with the Moorish Government, especially as regards the guardianship of the sanctuary.

In regard to the first point, political reasons might justify such a measure, and a precedent is at hand in the case of the Wazzan Shereefs. If protection were refused it is possible the family might in despair appeal to the French, and I have little doubt that in that case they would receive, and not only they but, as with the Wazzan Shereefs, all branches of the family would receive full protection, and any interference on the part of the Moorish Government would be peremptorily rejected.

In regard to the second point, *i.e.*, difficulties with the Moorish Government, I think, should your Lordship decide to grant the protection to the three sons, the best plan would be for me to explain privately and frankly to the Grand Vizier the reasons which have dictated such a step. The moment would be a specially favourable one for doing so, when French activity is causing some uneasiness in Court circles.

The Shereef is now on excellent terms with the Vizier, and the Moorish Government is well aware that we do not take advantage of our relations with that personage to cause the Moorish Government any embarrassment or concern. The Vizier is also perfectly able to understand that the case would be far otherwise if the family were under French protection.

A timely explanation of the case to the Grand Vizier might remove all danger of unpleasant discussions between the Government and the Legation in the future.

The case of Cid Bubkir is on quite a different footing, and is easier of arrangement, and could be dealt with separately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Mohammed-ben-Saïd Meslohi to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.) 9 *Shawal*, 1317 (*February* 9, 1900).

AFTER compliments, and thanking God for safe return.

I have sent my son Moulai Saïd as my representative and in my stead to meet you and renew to you my assurances of friendship. Latterly I have been occasionally visited by an illness in which there is little safety, and once I was on the point of death from it. When I saw this I made a will through notaries, leaving my three sons, Moulai Saïd, Moulai Hamed, and Sidi Hamed, the charge of my properties and the sanctuary of my ancestor Moulai Brahim, which is our particular property, no one else having any interest in it. All this I have in documents and "dahirs" from remote times to the present.

You know, oh, friend, of the envy which has been shown against me by my neighbours and others, and their efforts to cause me harm with the Makhzen from their envy, because of the properties God has granted me in their midst. The Makhzen wrote to you what they said, and it then saw their falseness and their hostility towards me; on that account I beg, oh, friend, that their protection may be through you, personal to them as it was to me from your Government, the exalted, as they are my sons, in my house with me, and are affected by that which affects me (*i.e.*, they share in my protection). I will not let any one know of this, but it shall be guarded by me, save it should be necessary to divulge it to repel the harm of the envious and inimical.

I wish you to take note that I have made out this testament in favour of my sons: my object is to seek that safety for myself, my children, and my men who are on my properties, which we had in the remote times, of all which I have proofs, and I have no desire to mix up in what does not concern me. This I ask of you.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-SAÏD MESLOHI.

No. 31.

Sir G. Farwell to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 15.)

My Lord, *Royal Courts of Justice, March* 14, 1900.

IN an action now pending before me in the High Court of Justice the following questions have arisen:—

1. Were the tribes of Sûs at the commencement of 1894, and are they now, independent, or subjects of the Sultan of Morocco?

2. If the tribes of Sûs were or are independent, did their jurisdiction at the beginning of 1894 or since extend over the entire territories, or substantially its entire territories, between the Atlas Mountains and the River Nun?

According to the practice of the Court, these are matters of which the Judges take judicial cognizance, and for their own instruction, and also to avoid any difference of opinion on matters of fact between the Great Officers of State and themselves, apply to your Lordship for information.

I have therefore to ask your Lordship to be so good as to give the information necessary to answer the foregoing questions, and I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE FARWELL.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 20 of the 22nd ultimo relative to the alleged smuggling case at Mazagan, in which you state that you have directed legal proceedings to be taken against the British subject, Jamie Maria, under Article 107 of "The Morocco Order in Council, 1889."

The steps taken by you as described in that despatch have my approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1900.

SPANISH garrisons in Morocco.

With reference to telegram No. 3 from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, repeated to you to-day.

Please let me know by telegraph whether the Spanish Minister has left yet for the Moorish Court, and whether he has delivered ultimatum.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 20, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 3 and 4 of the 19th instant regarding the Spanish garrisons in Morocco, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister has not presented any ultimatum, and does not intend to proceed to the Moorish Court until after the settlement of the question. One or two points have still to be decided, but the Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that he hoped a satisfactory arrangement would now be arrived at. It is somewhat perplexing to follow the discussions between Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres and the Spanish Minister,

but I am forwarding despatches by next opportunity which will explain the position of the affair.

If your Lordship approved I could, should the question again take a serious turn, have a message conveyed to the Vizier from me, recommending in a private and friendly form that a settlement be promptly effected.

No. 35.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1900.

SPANISH garrisons in Morocco.

The suggestion contained in the last paragraph of your telegram No. 3 of to-day is approved.

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 21, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 6 of yesterday's date, there is no urgent case that I know of for which a French man-of-war would be required here. It appeared to me possible that the projected visit might be connected with the Spanish question, and that it might be for the purpose of supporting the Spanish Minister, but I am informed by the Spanish Minister that the subject has not been mentioned to the French Chargé d'Affaires by him. He considers it likely, however, that the French Ambassador at Madrid may have been consulted by Señor Silvela.

The Spanish question is not at present in an acute stage, and the introduction into it of so disturbing an element as a French man-of-war would be unfortunate.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 14, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 2nd instant, the Spanish Minister informed me to-day that the Sultan's Deputy had communicated to him the reply of the Grand Vizier to the remonstrances which he had made in regard to the interdict on the provisioning of the Spanish posts of Alhucemas and Peñon. The reply, M. de Ojeda said, was very unsatisfactory; and he also felt aggrieved at the Grand Vizier not answering his notes personally, but communicating the reply of the Moorish Government through Cid Mohammed Torres. He considered this procedure as an act of discourtesy.

The Grand Vizier had instructed Cid Mohammed Torres to inform him that the interdict had been established in order to stop the active contraband trade which was pursued between the Spanish posts and the neighbouring territories. On examining the Spanish Treaties the Moorish Government had, however, satisfied itself that a former Sultan had, "as an act of condescension," agreed to permit the Spanish posts to obtain provisions from the neighbouring Moorish districts; and this permission the present Sultan was prepared to continue on two conditions: firstly, that no Spanish subject was to be allowed to proceed outside the Spanish lines into Moorish territory; and secondly, that any Moorish subject who might be charged with any offence committed within the Spanish lines should be handed over to the Moorish authorities to be dealt with, and not judged by the Spanish authorities.

These two conditions, M. de Ojeda observed, would constitute fresh violations of the Treaties; as the first would limit the right of Spanish subjects to circulate freely in the Moorish dominions, while the second abrogated Spain's sovereign rights within her

own territory. He denied that any contraband trade was carried on through the Spanish posts.

I asked M. de Ojeda if he proposed to deal with the question on his approaching visit to the Court.

He replied that he had transmitted the Moorish communication to his Government, with the draft of the reply which he proposed to make. He had suggested that he should inform the Grand Vizier that he should not proceed to the Court until the interdict had been unconditionally withdrawn; also that he should intimate that, in the event of non compliance, his Government reserved to itself the right to take measures to obtain the due observance of Treaty stipulations at such a time and in such a manner as it might deem it convenient and suitable.

He told me that he considered it would be undignified, after the reply of the Grand Vizier and the mode in which it had been communicated, for him to visit the Court so long as the question was pending. He had referred the matter to his Government and would naturally be guided by its decision.

M. de Ojeda was evidently much perplexed at the turn the question had taken, and is, I think, averse from resorting to coercive measures. Presumably, his Government is of the same opinion; and in these circumstances it would seem rational to take advantage of a personal visit to the Court to settle the question amicably and speedily, without being too sensitive on minor questions of dignity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 15, 1900.

AS several reports had appeared in the local newspapers of an attack by the tribes on the French post at Insaleh, I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether there was any truth in these rumours.

M. de la Martinière stated that he had received no information on the subject, and that he did not believe that any disturbances had occurred. He informed me that the French had established a telegraph station at Zibonia, a place a little to the eastward and close to Figuig, and that the railway would shortly be extended to that place. The question of prolonging the line still further southwards was a question for future consideration.

M. de la Martinière added that the French frontier authorities had sent people to Figuig to request the population to remain peaceable and to establish neighbourly relations. Although the frontier had not been delimitated in those regions, M. de la Martinière observed that in the Treaty of 1845 Figuig was specifically stated as belonging to Morocco. There was then no intention of occupying that place, but the frontier authorities were naturally anxious to keep on good terms with the inhabitants. M. de la Martinière expatiated at some length on the difficulties which the Algerian Government had met with from the turbulence of the frontier tribes, and on the necessity of taking measures, such as the occupation of Insaleh and the extension of the railway system, to check the continued depredations over the border. M. de la Martinière was for some time Colonial Secretary in Algeria, and is therefore well acquainted with frontier affairs.

I hear privately from the Court that several members of the governing class are uneasy at the very close proximity of the French to Figuig, and fear that the tribes in that district will, before very long, ask for French protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 23, 1900.

PRIVATE information has reached me from the Court to the effect that a special courier had arrived there bringing to the Grand Vizier news of the retirement of the French after having been attacked by the tribes of Insalah and Tuat.

I am told that the Moorish Government believe that the French, desiring an excuse for extending their occupation in those regions, purposely brought on this attack upon themselves for that object.

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 26, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 6 of the 20th instant and to my telegram No. 4 of the 21st instant, I am informed that the projected visit of the French man-of-war is not connected with any diplomatic question, but that she is proceeding to Oran to convey the new French Minister to Tangier; she is expected to arrive here in about ten days time.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 26, 1900.

I AM informed that a protest against the occupation of Insalah was sent to the French Legation about a fortnight ago by the Moorish Government, but that the French Government considers that the Moorish Government have no claim to interfere, as the occupation is merely a police measure which does not concern them. The French Government therefore will not discuss the question.

No. 42.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Justice Farwell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1900.

IN your letter of the 14th instant, the receipt of which has already been acknowledged, you requested the information necessary to answer the following questions which had arisen in an action pending before your Lordship in the High Court of Justice:—

1. Were the tribes of Sûs at the commencement of 1894, and are they now, independent, or subjects of the Sultan of Morocco?

2. If the tribes of Sûs were or are independent, did their jurisdiction at the beginning of 1894, or since, extend over the entire territories between the Atlas Mountains and the River Nun?

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the Sûs tribes were in 1894, and are now, subjects of the Sultan of Morocco;

And that the territories lying between the Atlas Mountains and Wad Nun were in 1894, and are now, within the jurisdiction of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 28, 1900.

THE question of the Spanish garrisons referred to in my despatch No. 36 of the 21st instant is now closed, the communications having been reopened unconditionally, and the note of Cid Mohammed Torres having been withdrawn.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 28, Confidential, of the 5th instant, giving an account of your conversation with Moulai Saïd, the eldest son of the Shereef of Tamsloht.

In view of the circumstances described in that despatch, I authorize you to extend British protection to the Shereef's three sons, and to explain privately to the Moorish Government, as suggested by you, the reasons which have dictated the step.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 14th instant, the Spanish Minister informed me to-day that the reply which he had proposed to make to the communication of the Moorish Government in regard to the difficulties which had arisen with respect to the Spanish garrisons, had been approved by his Government, and that he had waited on Cid Torres in order to communicate it to him. I have the honour to transmit a translation of the Spanish note. M. de Ojeda read the note to Cid Torres and then returned him the letters which had been inclosed in the Moorish communication for transmission to the Moorish Governors of the districts adjoining Alhucemas and Peñon. Cid Torres, on learning the contents of the Spanish note, observed that there must be some misunderstanding and thereupon left the room. He shortly afterwards returned with an open letter addressed to the Moorish Governors, which he requested the Spanish interpreter to translate to his Minister. This letter told the Governors that they should raise the interdict placed on communication with the Spanish posts "in accordance with the orders they would doubtless have received from the Moorish Government."

Cid Torres then inquired of the Spanish Minister if this letter would satisfy him; and M. de Ojeda stated that it would, as no conditions were attached, and provided that the Governors had received the necessary orders from their Government. Cid Torres assured him that he need be under no apprehension on that point. M. de Ojeda therefore withdrew the note which he had read to Cid Torres.

M. de Ojeda has suggested to his Government that he should send the letter to the Governors by a Spanish gun-boat, which should wait at Alhucemas to see that the Governors had received the orders to which Cid Torres had alluded, and that the communications between the Spanish posts were freely and unconditionally re-established.

M. de Ojeda has also transmitted to his Government the draft of a reply, of which I also beg leave to transmit a translation, which he proposes to address to the communication made by Cid Torres on the 10th instant, and which had been considered so unsatisfactory. M. de Ojeda explained that even if the orders to the Moorish Governors were satisfactory, still the note of Cid Torres had raised points which it was impossible to leave unanswered; and, moreover, the request which he had formerly made for the punishment of the Governors had been ignored.

I asked M. de Ojeda whether he intended to insist on the punishment of these local authorities, as I understood the Moorish Government had taken upon itself the full responsibility of the measures. M. de Ojeda said that if the Government was willing to take the responsibility, then some satisfaction must be accorded for its wanton violation of Treaties; but he thought his Government would be satisfied if the Governor were ordered to proceed to Alhucemas and Peñon and apologize for the measures which had been taken; and if the Moorish Government admitted that it had been in the wrong.

M. de Ojeda will now await instructions from his Government, both as to the gun-boat and the modified reply to Cid Torres; but he did not intend to proceed to the Court till the question had been finally arranged.

M. de Ojeda hopes that the question is now in a fair way to settlement, though he is not quite reassured as to whether the Governors will have in reality received orders to reopen communications freely and without conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S. *March* 21.—I beg leave to transmit a translation of the note of Cid Mohammed Torres of the 10th instant, to which the above-mentioned notes of M. de Ojeda are replies, and which the latter was good enough to send me for perusal this morning.

A. N.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Señor de Ojeda to Cid Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, March* 16, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, in which you communicated the reply of your Government to my note of the 28th December, 1899.

Your reply was transmitted to His Majesty's Government, who has instructed me to state the following:—

His Majesty's Government does not admit that His Shereefian Majesty can attach conditions to his fulfilment of the Treaty of 1859; and, consequently, instructs me to return to you the letters to the Kaïds (Governors) in which the said conditions were notified, and which letters were transmitted with your above-mentioned communication.

The abuses in connection with contraband trade, which your note denounces, could, if they really exist, form the subject of an inquiry, which would lead to an agreement between the two parties with the view of suppressing them. But in no case, and from no point of view, do they justify the Moorish Government in violating an international compact.

Spain can never admit the claims of the Moorish Government to decree, of its own will, the suspension of the free circulation, as granted by Treaty, of the inhabitants of the Spanish posts in the neighbouring districts; but His Majesty's Government, in view of certain considerations and conveniences, reserves to itself the liberty of acceding, or not, to any request which may be addressed to it by the Shereefian Government for certain local restrictions on such free circulation.

The exemption of all subjects of the Sultan, residing in or travelling through the Spanish posts, from Spanish jurisdiction, which the Moorish Government has demanded, by an erroneous or arbitrary interpretation of the Treaties, would constitute an encroachment on the sovereign rights of Spain in her African posts ("presidios"); and, consequently, His Majesty's Government is compelled to reject such claims without further discussion.

His Majesty's Government further desires, through my intermediary, to express the surprise which it experienced at the Government of His Shereefian Majesty having omitted to make, in its reply, any reference to the just demands of Spain for the punishment of the authorities who were concerned in the matter; or to the prejudices which had been caused, and to the want of consideration which had been shown to Spain by the acts of the Moorish Government or of its functionaries, His Majesty's Government can only attribute these omissions, as well as the fact that the Grand Vizier did not reply, directly and personally, as is customary, to the two notes which I addressed to him in the name of my Government, to an involuntary forgetfulness which His Majesty's Government trusts the Moorish Government will not allow to recur again.

In conclusion, His Majesty's Government, painfully impressed by the contents of your note of the 10th instant, in which the Moorish Government claims to subordinate the fulfilment of a solemn engagement to conditions which His Majesty's Government is unable to accept, instructs me to be the exponent of the feeling which is caused by action which so little corresponds with the numerous proofs which Spain has afforded by her friendly consideration towards Morocco.

I am further to state to you that if, on the receipt of this note by the Shereefian Court, your Government does not give orders for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the interdict which exists against Alhucemas and Peñon; and does not, at the same time, grant the satisfaction demanded by Spain in my note of the 28th December, 1899, His Majesty's Government will feel itself obliged, in the first place, to defer my visit to the Court, as the friendly intention of such visit is incompatible with the indifference which the Sultan's Government has, hitherto, shown towards my requests; and, in the second place, His Majesty's Government reserves to itself entire liberty to act in this question as its dignity and its convenience may require.

In view of the importance of the decisions which His Majesty's Government will have to take I have to request you to communicate the above with the least possible delay, and impress on the Government of His Shereefian Majesty the necessity of an immediate reply.

(Signed) E. DE OJEDA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Draft Note from Señor de Ojeda to Cid Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)

(After usual compliments.) *Tangier, March* , 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant in reply to those I addressed to the Grand Vizier on the October and 28th December, 1899, regarding the grave infraction of our Treaty committed by the Sultan's authorities in prohibiting the provisioning of the garrisons of Alhucemas and Peñon, which used to be effected from the neighbouring shores by virtue of international obligations.

His Majesty's Government having been informed of the reply of the Makhzen, directs me to express to you its surprise, in the first place, that you should have given no satisfaction whatever to Spain for the prejudice it has suffered through such infraction, nor for the imminent danger of a disturbance of our friendly relations which such action has caused, and that you should have limited yourself to merely handing me a letter for the Kaïd of Beni Uriaghel, in which, five months after it had been asked of you, you instruct him to reopen the communications between the tribes and the garrisons in the manner previously established.

In its desire, before all things, to avoid the possibility of the recurrence of such acts, which are derogating to its dignity and interests, and of their becoming a perpetual source of danger to the cordial relations existing between the two countries, His Majesty's Government, in my last note on the subject, demanded that the culpable persons be punished and that due satisfaction be given. In acting thus His Majesty's Government merely gave proof of its unalterable desire to preserve the peace between us. To this you have made no reply; but His Majesty's Government, being convinced that you are animated by the same desires, and that you will concur in the necessity of imposing a penalty that will remove all possibility of the recurrence of such dangerous infractions of Treaty on the part of your subordinates, again requests of you their punishment, and trusts that you will be good enough to reply on this point.

His Majesty's Government are also surprised that the Shereefian Government should endeavour to excuse the breach of Treaty that has been committed on the ground that it was in order to put a stop to contraband, for if this really existed the Moorish authorities could have denounced it, and the penalty prescribed in Article LVI of our Treaty would have been imposed. If it appeared to you that this Article did not offer sufficient guarantee His Majesty's Government, which is ever ready to afford you its friendly assistance, would certainly have been happy, as on so many other occasions, to entertain any representations you might make with a view to arriving at an agreement on the subject, the desirability of which I have pointed out to you on several other occasions. Such would have been the logical and courteous procedure that the character of our relations would appear to suggest, but under no circumstances could His Majesty's

Government admit, nor will it admit, that the commission of an ordinary offence of contraband trading, against which all nations are bound to protect themselves, and which on this occasion you have not even taken the trouble to prove, and which, moreover, would in any case merely call for the application of the above-mentioned LVIth Article of the Treaty, should serve as an excuse for the violation of a friendly compact by the Shereefian Government.

His Majesty's Government cannot, therefore, accept the explanation you offer thereon, and at the same time it is under the necessity of repudiating the vague accusations you bring forward against certain persons under Spanish protection, pointing out to you in passing, that the only protected person you name, viz., Isaac Pinto, presented to your Government a year and a-half ago a claim on account of the unqualifiable injury he suffered in his interests and in the persons of his agents at the hands of your chief military officer. This fact would appear at first sight to throw some doubts on the impartiality of the complaints against the said Pinto which your local authorities have transmitted to you.

In conclusion, His Majesty's Government have instructed me most seriously to call the attention of the Shereefian Government to the final portion of your note, the sense of which appears to imply that the Makhzen agrees to raise the prohibition which it had imposed upon Alhucemas and Peñon on two conditions, viz., that none of the inhabitants of those garrisons can go to the neighbouring coast, and that the subjects of the Sultan who pass through, or visit, the said garrisons shall be exempt from Spanish jurisdiction as regards offences they may commit there.

His Majesty's Government considers the first of these conditions contrary to the spirit and letter of the Treaty, which grants to Spanish subjects the right of freely travelling in the Empire, and declares to you that, although, at your request, it might be disposed to agree to certain restrictions on this right in respect to certain localities, it does not, and cannot, accept the imposition at your hands of the restrictions you ask for.

As to the second condition, His Majesty's Government considers it an infringement of the sovereignty of Spain over its African possessions, and it must, therefore, reject it without discussion.

On the other hand His Majesty's Government being convinced that the Shereefian Government had not the remotest idea of conveying the impression that its fulfilment of a sacred obligation should depend on conditions, no matter of what character, being imposed on Spain, which are foreign to the Treaty, has no hesitation in attributing the supposition to an obscure rendering or erroneous interpretation of your thoughts, and in the hope that you will be good enough to explain it, directs me to put on record the reserves it makes regarding all that your note of the 10th instant contains that is contrary to the Treaties and Conventions that govern the relations between the two countries.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Cid Mohammed Torres to Señor de Ojeda.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *7 Kaada*, 1317 (*March* 10, 1900).

YOU are not unaware of the difficulties caused to the Makhzen by the actions of the corrupt of the Riffians, nor of the indemnities which have been paid on that account, and the heavy expenditure entailed in settling that Kabila, and that the source of all this is the great spread of contraband arms, &c., there, by which they strengthen themselves for corruption, and that, through certain Jews, for example Isaac Pinto, who claims your protection, and others like him who go and come between Alhucemas, Peñon, and other places. The Makhzen sent you information of this, and you promised to give your attention to checking it, and when contraband in those districts became excessive, the Makhzen put a stop to it (*i.e.* trade) until such time as it could look into the matter, because of the harm it caused. And as the Article in question shows that the Makhzen only permits the free entry of provisions to the said two places as a favour of its own free will; and you requested that it might be continued, the Makhzen, watchful to improve the friendly and neighbourly relations, has consented to this on the condition that no one from these two places shall disembark on the Riff coasts.

Moreover, the Makhzen has appointed a number of guards under a Chief to act as a guard and to watch for contraband, so that anything landed there from these two places will be seized as contraband and confiscated to the Makhzen; also on the condition that

if any Moorish subject, taking provisions into these two places commit a crime there, notice thereof shall be given to the functionary on the coast, who will send for him in order that he may be suitably punished. And no Moorish subject may be imprisoned at either of these two places, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Peace. Herewith you will receive a letter to the Kaïd of that coast in conformity with the said consent. And we await your reply.

May you continue, &c.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1900.

I AM informed that a Moorish official is leaving for Germany to inspect two batteries of field guns, which were ordered by the Government through the German Minister during the mission of the latter to the Court the year before last.

I was not aware that such an order had been obtained; and I will endeavour to ascertain some particulars as to the guns and as to whether there is an intention of procuring the assistance of any German officers in instructing the Moorish gunners in the service of the new weapons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 47.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1900.

I AM informed privately from the Court that 2,000 men of the Ducalla tribe will be shortly sent to the coast for transport to the Algerian frontier, along which they will be distributed as guards. This detachment is to relieve others who were sent some eighteen months ago, but of whom the majority has deserted to the French side of the border. Those who do come back to their homes return, I am informed, much impressed with the superiority of French methods of rule over those existing in this country.

The Ducalla tribe, one of the most important in Morocco, inhabits the districts round Mazagan, and, I understand, it is at the request of the French authorities that the frontier guards are drawn from it. I have not ascertained the object which the French authorities have in view in specially selecting the Ducalla tribe for the above service. It may be that they are desirous of disseminating among provinces far removed from the Algerian frontier reports as to the happy condition of Mussulmans under French rule; though it is difficult to understand why the Moorish Government should lend themselves to this kind of propaganda. I will endeavour to obtain information on the subject, as my attention has only recently been called to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 35. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 20, 1900.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called on me yesterday to inquire, on the part of the Italian Minister now at this Court, whether I had any information as to a report that the Spanish Minister intended to suggest to the Moorish Government that the Spanish lines round Ceuta should receive a considerable extension in exchange for the Spanish Government abandoning their fishing rights at Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña and not insisting on the delimitation of the neutral zone at Melilla. The Italian Minister was

of opinion, M. Bianco stated, that an extension of the Ceuta lines might considerably stregthen the defence of that place, and possibly render it a menace to Gibraltar.

I told M. Bianco that such reports had appeared in some Spanish papers, but that the Spanish Minister had recently positively denied to me that there was any truth in them, and had explicitly stated that he had no intention of asking for any extension of the Ceuta lines.

I took an opportunity lately of asking M. de Ojeda whether he proposed to settle the question of Santa Cruz, and determine its locality. He replied that he probably would deal with that point among others, but that he had not received his final instructions from his Government as to the subjects he was to treat with the Moorish Government. He promised to communicate them to me as soon as they reached his hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 21, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 32 of the 19th instant, transmitting translations of some notes referring to the existing difficulties between Spain and Morocco, I would beg leave to point out that if the Spanish Government approve of the second note of M. de Ojeda, and it is communicated to Cid Mohammed Torres, some time must necessarily elapse before a reply is given to the various points raised in it. Cid Torres would hardly answer it without instructions from his Government; and I fear a lengthy and accrimonious discussion might ensue.

It would be unfortunate to allow the question to remain open for long; and if the Spanish Minister were eventually unable to obtain a satisfactory reply, it is possible that he might urge his Government to submit the question to all the Powers.

M. de Ojeda has often expressed to me his desire to see all questions affecting Treaties undertaken by collective action; and, I believe, he has obtained the concurrence of his Government with this view. Collective action in Morocco is, so far as my experience goes, not a satisfactory instrument to employ; and though he might not secure it in this instance, one or two Powers might be inclined to intervene in a manner which might be inconvenient.

To my mind it is most desirable that the question should be closed as soon as possible.

I asked M. de Ojeda this morning whether, in the event of the instructions to the local Moorish authorities proving sufficient, and if free and unconditional intercourse were re-established with the Spanish garrisons, he still proposed to defer his visit to the Court till all the points raised in his draft note, which forms Inclosure No. 2 in my despatch No. 32, were satisfactorily arranged.

M. de Ojeda replied in the negative; and said that he would proceed to the Court as soon as he was assured that the communications with the Spanish garrisons were reopened.

I asked him whether, in that case, he could not request Cid Torres to withdraw his note of the 10th instant, which contained the points which had caused umbrage to his Government and himself, and then consider the incident as closed. It was probable that Cid Torres would raise no great difficulties on that point.

M. de Ojeda said that this might be done; but still he would not have obtained the satisfaction his Government demanded for the measures which had been taken, and which had caused the Spanish garrisons to be precluded for five months from all intercourse with the neighbouring districts.

I told him that, in my view, the withdrawal of the note and the reopening of communications would be very substantial satisfaction; and in any case he could discuss personally with the Grand Vizier that portion of the question.

M. de Ojeda said he would think over the suggestion, which I explained I had made merely as a private friend, and after perusal of the correspondence which he had been good enough to communicate to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 50.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 30.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Lloyd's, London, March* 28, 1900.

I BEG to inform you, in case it may be of any value to the Foreign Office, that Lloyd's agent at Algiers confidentially reports, under date of the 22nd March, that Dr. Reynaud, Director of the Maritime Sanitary Branch at Algiers, has informed Lloyd's agent that shortly he is to proceed to Mogador in Morocco on a Government mission to establish a quarantine station on the island off that port.

Lloyd's agent thinks that this information should be known to the authorities at home, as, in the present condition of political affairs, a quarantine station on an island opposite Mogador might be developed into something more dangerous than a temporary receptacle for pilgrims under a French administration.

Lloyd's agent adds that for same time there has been a fairly important massing of troops in excess of normal on the western frontier of Algeria, and that it is heard that it is contemplated to introduce several regiments from France, the ostensible reason being given as an auticipated difficulty with the Touaregs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

No. 51.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 4, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 36, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, giving an account of your conversation with the Spanish Minister relative to the difficulties with regard to provisioning Alhucemas and Peñon, which has arisen between Spain and Morocco.

I approve the language used by you to M. Ojeda, as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

Foreign Office to Lloyd's.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 4, 1900.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 28th ultimo relating to affairs in Morocco, and I am to convey to you his Lordship's thanks for the information which it contains.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 53.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 25, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 115 of the 2nd October, I have the honour to report that I am informed that the female slave who took refuge at the Vice-Consulate at Saffi is now in good hands at Morocco city, and that the Grand Vizier has caused her former owner to be severely reprimanded for having ill-treated her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 25, 1900.

I AM informed privately from the Court that the Grand Vizier received, on the 14th instant, a special courier conveying the news that the tribes in Tuat and in the neighbourhood of Insalah had attacked the French forces, and had compelled the latter to retire. My informant also states that the Moorish Government consider that the attack was purposely provoked in order to justify the occupation of the districts by a large French force. The French local paper, the "Réveil du Maroc," reports that two battalions of infantry and some artillery have received orders to proceed to Insalah, and that another detachment is to proceed to occupy Igli.

I was informed yesterday that the Sultan's Deputy had, by order of his Government, addressed about a fortnight ago a protest to the French Legation against the occupation of Insalah; but that the French Government does not intend to discuss the question, as it considers the measures taken at Insalah are simply of a police character, and that the Moorish Government has no claim to intervene in the matter. The French authorities have always maintained that Tuat and its neighbouring districts are quite outside the Moorish dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 28, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 21st instant, the Spanish Minister informed me this morning that the gun-boat which had conveyed Cid Mohammed Torres' letter to the Moorish local authorities at Alhucemas and Peñon had returned to Tangiers, and that everything had been settled satisfactorily. M. de Ojeda also told me that Cid Torres had withdrawn and destroyed his note of the 10th instant, and that consequently the Spanish note in reply would not be presented. The incident may therefore be considered as closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 9, 1900.

I AM informed that a Moorish Commissioner is proceeding to Tangier to suggest to the foreign Representatives that the frontier should be delimitated, and the whole line placed under European guarantee.

News has also reached me that the Moorish Government has been informed that Igli, a place about three days' march from Tafilelt, has been occupied by the French.

No. 57.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 22. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, March* 17, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Silvela yesterday spoke to me on the subject of the difficulties which have arisen between the Spanish Government

and the Sultan of Morocco, in consequence of the refusal of the latter to allow any communications between the Spanish garrisons at Alhucemas and Peñon and the neighbouring tribes.'

These difficulties form the subject of Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 16 of the 15th ultimo, copy of which he forwarded to me viâ Gibraltar by the messenger who arrived on the 23rd ultimo.

Señor Silvela stated that, in addition to the attempt to starve the Spanish garrisons, the Shereefian Government had also advanced a claim of exterritoriality in favour of Moorish residents in the Spanish possessions, on the ground that Spanish subjects in Morocco were exempt from the jurisdiction of the local Courts, and, on the strength of said claim, the Sultan demanded the extradition of sundry fugitive natives who had taken refuge in Spanish territory.

Señor Silvela declared that the Moorish claims could not be entertained for a moment, and his Excellency seemed to fear that the uncompromising attitude of the Sultan might compel the Spanish Government to resort to coercive measures, which they were naturally anxious to avoid. He said that the reverses of Spain during the late war with the United States had probably encouraged the Moors to think that they could defy Spain with impunity.

Señor Silvela accordingly suggested that instructions might be sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to support the representations of his Spanish colleague, and to impress upon the Sultan's Representative the necessity to make concessions and to withdraw impossible demands.

His Excellency finally expressed the serious purpose of the Spanish Government to act in accord with that of Her Majesty, with a view to the preservation of the *status quo* in Morocco.

I have this day telegraphed the substance of Señor Silvela's remarks to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

No. 58.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Madrid, March* 24, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22, Confidential, of the 17th instant, respecting the relations between Spain and Morocco, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy and translation of a question addressed to the Prime Minister in the Senate on the 22nd instant, by Señor Abarzuza, respecting the policy of the Spanish Government in Morocco (in connection with the recent French expedition to Insalah, and with the intended visit of the Spanish Minister at Tangier to Morocco city), as well as of Señor Silvela's reply.

I also inclose copy and translation of an article from the semi-official "Epoca" of yesterday evening, commenting upon the declarations of both speakers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Extract from "La Epoca" of March 23, 1900.

(Translation.)

SPANISH POLICY IN MOROCCO.—On the discussion yesterday in the Senate of the resolution of the Commission in regard to a loan of 21,000 piastres, by no means an exorbitant sum, for the purpose of defraying the journey expenses of our Minister in Tangier, Señor Ojeda, to the capital of Morocco, Señor Abarzuza, ex-Minister and quondam Spanish Ambassador in Paris, dealt in his speech with the interesting question of Spanish policy in that Empire.

Señor Abarzuza, adopting an excellent Parliamentary tradition disregarded by many, had previously spoken with the President of the Council privately on the subject, and

knew his views in regard to the policy in question; but he thought it right, in present circumstances, that this opinion should be made public. We agree with this view, as did also the Minister of State.

A portion of the French press has, ever since the outbreak of war in South Africa, been exaggerating the political interests possessed by the French nation in Morocco. This has caused the "Morning Post," whose relations with the Cabinet of St. James are well known, to direct public attention to aspirations which menace in some degree the territorial integrity of the Empire of the Shereefs, and to propose a plan of an extraordinary nature and of most difficult execution—the neutralization of Morocco.

Señor Abarzuza is decidedly in favour, as far as concerns our country, of the continuance of the policy of *status quo*, which he defined yesterday in the following words: "It consists in respecting and considering all the elements which constitute the African concert, without establishing solidarity with any special element, but by maintaining cordiality and good faith with all." He wishes to ascertain whether the journey of Señor Ojeda to Morocco, which the "Morning Post" has also dealt with, in any way implies a change or rectification in the said policy on the part of our Government.

The latest action of the French Government in Algiers, their advance towards Tuat, the expedition they are preparing in this direction and in three columns, one of which is to penetrate, in the course of its advance, Moorish territory, causes some anxiety to the ex-Minister; but his chief object in dealing with this question was to ascertain whether the journey of our Minister in Tangier meant a change of policy on the part of Spain.

The reply of the President of the Council was clear and explicit.

Señor Ojeda proceeds to the capital of Morocco to present to the Sultan his credentials as Minister of Spain at his Court, which till now he has not done. And since from the year 1859 there are several questions left undecided which do not possess any extraordinary character, he will naturally take advantage of the opportunity to advance or complete their settlement. Increased facilities for trade in the Riff, the supply of water for our fortified posts, the determination of the exact situation of Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña, conceded to us by the said Treaty, are among the number of the questions at issue.

The policy of the Madrid Government in Morocco has undergone no change. It is still the policy inaugurated with such success by Charles III—that of maintaining the *status quo* in the Empire, that of not making difficulties for the Sultan's Government, but, on the contrary, of removing them, as far as possible, and of constantly strengthening his authority.

The President of the Council added that the *status quo* in Morocco is in no danger, as this policy is that adopted "unanimously" by the Great Powers of Europe, and that the military movements in Algiers are perfectly consistent with it, because they take place with the knowledge and consent of the Sultan, and cannot affect Spanish interests. A serious and sensible policy, as Señor Abarzuza called it in his rectification, which does not lead to a Melilla or a Fashoda, and which is consistent with the now ruling purpose of concentrating the national forces until they be restored.

We think, for our part, that the *status quo* in Morocco has only one disadvantage—the danger lest this rule should not be observed by all, and one strong and ambitious Power should break through the spider's web which restrains the rest. Against this risk, lessened by the great difficulties which a large and warlike Mahommedan country like Morocco offers to European conquest, as well as to colonization, our own slight resistance could do little if the other Powers did not act in concert. This is happily the case, as the President of the Council said; none of them proposes to destroy the authority of the Sultan nor to invade his territory, making itself thereby responsible for the dangerous and deplorable anarchy which would ensue.

To take advantage of the duration of the *status quo* or balance between the European influences at work in North-East Africa, to improve and encourage the possessions we still have there by promoting commerce, navigation, and public works, that is the course marked out for us, and the way to prevent the rapid lapse of time from turning to the disadvantage of our country and its interests.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Extract from Debate in the Senate of March 22, 1900.

(Translation.)

ON Tuesday, the 22nd March, 1900, upon the Report of the Budget Committee in favour of the Bill assigning a credit of 21,000 pesetas to meet the expenses of the proposed visit of the Spanish Minister at Tangier to Morocco city being introduced in the Senate, Señor Abarzuza, formerly Minister of the Colonies in the Liberal Cabinet, spoke as follows :—

"The preamble of the Decree authorizing the introduction of the present Bill states that the Government recognize the urgent necessity for our Minister at Tangier to proceed to Marakesh to present his credentials to the Sultan of Morocco, and to discuss directly with His Shereefian Majesty certain questions of high policy. I therefore venture to request the Prime Minister, if he thinks fit, to tell us something, to give us some information, or explanation, however brief, respecting the nature of the questions of high policy which our Minister at Tangier is about to discuss directly with the Sultan of Morocco. Further, I would request his Excellency to tell us whether it is his intention and purpose to make any amendment, change, or alteration in the policy of Spain in Africa; whether he thinks any such change necessary; and, above all, whether such change is, perchance (though I do not believe it), connected with the evident and notorious change, with the radical and profound alteration of policy which the French Government is at the present moment carrying out in regard to the region in question.

"As I have previously stated in this House, I had already spoken privately to the Prime Minister, to give him notice of my present question, and I gathered, from the few words which we exchanged, that he had in view no change or modification of our policy in Morocco.

"This completely satisfies me, and I should, therefore, not have disturbed the Senate and the Prime Minister but that I consider that it is not sufficient for us to treat these matters behind a curtain, and for the Minister of State and myself to be privately informed that no change is about to take place in the policy of Spain in Africa, and that it is right, and even indispensable, that the Senate should know it, and also the country, since it is the country which feels, eventually, the results of wise acts or of mistakes of policy.

"If the Minister of State thinks that he should keep silence on these matters, I am not the person to urge him to speak.

"If he considers it his duty to say little, he, who is so great a master of Parliamentary tactics, has ample means at his disposal to say whatever he can, whatever he wishes, and, above all, whatever he ought to say on this subject; still, I believe that it is right for him to say a few words, and that it will be advantageous that he should furnish some explanation, however short, on a point which I deem important, the more so as the entire press of France, but especially the semi-official press, which is most directly in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and upon which Governments rely when they wished to be impelled in a given direction, gives credit to M. Delcassé for having effected a complete change in the direction and object of French policy in Algeria by abandoning the system of passive inaction and adopting that of energetic action and great undertakings which may possibly not be free from danger.

"And, in fact, the French Government have abandoned the system of pecuniary indemnities which the Sultan of Morocco used to pay in order to claim and put into practice their ancient right of crossing the boundary well into Moorish territory in pursuit of their rebellious subjects, and likewise of all who may protect, or seem to protect, those subjects.

"The Prime Minister and Minister of State well knows that such action opens the door to anything, and that, under cover of the said right, every imaginable plan and adventure can be put into execution. But there is more. The French Government has replaced the theoretical declaration by which it used to maintain verbally its so-called rights over Tuat, with a practical claim to occupy that oasis, and at this very moment its forces are advancing for the purpose.

"Three strong columns of French troops are marching on Tuat itself: one column is advancing from Jolea on Insalah, another from the north of Ain-Sefra also upon Insalah, and another by the southern road to support the movement and to occupy the whole vast region, an archipelago of oases, which extends from the Algerian frontier right up to Tuat—between Insalah and Tuat.

"One expedition is advancing across the frontier of Morocco by the very same line on which Captain Boulle's expedition was compelled to retire last year. The whole question of Morocco may be reopened in Soufoana. There is one point, viz., Duveirrier Zoubra, where a large number of Spaniards have settled, and, naturally, these Spaniards may any day find themselves involved in a series of complications, owing to the occupation, not only of Tuat, but also of all the surrounding oases.

"Clearly, the Spanish Government must keep its attention fixed upon these points, and my object in addressing my present question to the Prime Minister has been to request and urge his Excellency to state clearly to the Senate that our ancient and traditional policy has in nowise been changed—the policy, I mean of the *status quo*, a policy whose object is respect and consideration for all the different elements which enter into the African concert without entering into partnership with any particular element, but maintaining cordial relations and a good understanding with all of them.

"The French press asserts that present conditions are most favourable for carrying out the occupation of Tuat, as Europe is just now taken up with other more important questions, and has, consequently, lost all interest in that of Algeria.

"I cannot tell whether this attitude on the part of Europe, and the absence of any element possessing a legitimate interest in the preservation of the *status quo* in Algiers and the future of Africa may prove an incentive to the French Government, but I do know that the absence for the moment of such an element can be no incentive or attraction to the Spanish nation.

"I believe that the President of the Council, the Minister of State, in consistently pursuing the policy of the *status quo*, in respecting the present position of all the elements which make up the African question, will be carrying out the only policy which is suitable for and worthy of Spain at the present moment. Now that the Spanish nation is passing through a period of reflection, of introspection, of the putting away and destruction of so many dangerous traditions, I am convinced that to enter on this path, alike of modesty and safety, is the only course both expedient and secure, as I hope and trust that it may be the only one maintained and defended by the President of the Council."

The President of the Council (Silvela).—I have great pleasure in giving Senor Abarzuza and the Senate the explanations he desires, which have already been the subject of private conversation between us. Indeed we are dealing with a question of international law and foreign policy on which any Spanish Minister of State can speak with perfect frankness, because there happily exists in all Spanish parties, in public opinion and in the whole country, a great unanimity on the point. Rash indeed would be the Minister of State or the Government who should attempt to run counter to an opinion so long established, so well-founded and universal. Considerations of every order make it necessary for Spain to pursue in Morocco the policy till now pursued uninterruptedly and indefatigably by all Governments, the policy, that is, of the maintenance of the *status quo*. Happily I do not at this moment see any danger of this policy meeting with any serious obstacles, because all the Great European Powers are agreed with respect to it.

My friend, Señor Abarzuza, will understand that I cannot enter into an examination and analysis of the present French policy in Algiers, nor determine whether the movements made towards Tuat do in fact denote a change of French policy or are due to the exigencies of defence which is now made more difficult than it was during the former relations of France with Morocco by the somewhat critical situation in Algeria, the various disturbed elements there, and the several questions which have lately arisen; whether all this represents a change of policy on the part of the French Republic: because to do so would be to approach a subject with which Senators may deal with perfect freedom, but on which it would be a delicate matter for a Government to touch in any way.

It is sufficient for my purpose to establish the fact that all these military movements on the frontiers of Algiers have evoked no protest nor resistance from the Sultan of Morocco and are made in concert with him. I do not think that they constitute any infraction of the integrity of the Moorish Empire in the opinion of the Government of that Empire; and for Spanish interests it is enough to know that they do not even remotely affect Spain, which is interested only to defend what she possesses in Africa and in the safety of all her possessions there.

As to the mission of our Minister, its chief object is to discharge the formality of presenting the credentials which he should have presented some time ago, but was prevented from doing by exceptional circumstances. But the mission will, of course, not be confined to the simple diplomatic formality of presenting the credentials and so completely regularizing, so to speak, our diplomatic representation in the Empire.

You are aware, Gentlemen, that we have outstanding several questions connected with

the fulfilment of the Treaty of 1859, both as touching the limits of our fortresses and the provision of certain supplies to them, notably that of water, and jurisdiction in their waters; also with what concerns some of the Articles of the Treaty, that, for instance, relating to Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña which remains unfulfilled, and which in view of the situation on the coast of Africa it may now be most important should be in some form or other carried out.

There is also before us the necessity of adjusting equitably the responsibility for certain past events—a task which the lapse of time has no doubt rendered easier but which it is important should be definitely settled.

With this may be connected the complete regulation of the Riff trade and the communication by sea with our posts in that part of the Sultan's territory, and everything relating to the safety and defence of commerce and navigation, which may require some new regulations on account of the increase, however small, of the Sultan's navy, which permits him, in his opinion, to exercise more effective control in those coasts.

All these are questions which have to be definitely settled, for which purpose our Minister must take the opportunity which his journey affords according to the instructions already given him.

Such, then, will be the political questions dealt with at the audience, and with regard to which the Government trusts to obtain a satisfactory result, through the friendliness of the Sultan's Government, which now preserves the most amicable relations with the Spanish Government.

I must also say that I believe that this desire to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco is, as I have said, shared by all the Great Powers of Europe, that is, that all have an interest, which we have every reason to share, in not in any way opening the Morocco question at this moment.

I imagine that the French Government will not separate itself from this body of opinion, and that for many reasons it is interested as much as, or more than, any one in a question so grave and delicate as that of Morocco might become in the event of a modification of the policy of the Great Powers respecting it, and which would alarm, reasonably enough, many of the interests in France which are now concerned for the maintenance of material peace and also of a feeling of security in the public mind and in diplomatic circles.

These explanations will, I think, satisfy Señor Abarzuza, but if he would have me be more explicit on any point, I shall feel no difficulty in doing so, for I will never be tired of repeating that the Government is pursuing the policy pursued by all previous Governments with regard to the Empire of Morocco, which is that of preserving its *status quo*, strengthening the authority of the Sultan by all means, helping the Government of the Emperor of Morocco, removing all possible obstacles, and avoiding the raising of the slightest obstacle in order that his authority may be exercised with all requisite prestige, and that its administration and the maintenance of his authority may be made easy.

Señor Abarzuza.—The President of the Council is right in saying that Senators are free to make observations from which he is prohibited by reasons of State.

He considers that the French Government is acting in concert with the Sultan and its new undertaking, and in substituting for the system of pecuniary compensation the pursuit of its subjects, and of all who aid and abet them, within Moorish territory.

I agree with the President of the Council that this is a somewhat delicate affair, which may have serious consequences in the future, or even to-day. One of the columns already on the march is about to cross the Moorish frontier at exactly the same point at which another French military expedition was last year repulsed and obliged to return to its point of departure.

At Duverrier Zoubra there are many Spaniards who may be involved in these complications, and it was on that account that I called your attention to it, although I naturally suppose that the Government has not lost sight of it.

The Sultan of Morocco may in some matters be acting in concert with France, but France proclaims, and the French press daily proclaims aloud, that half of the Empire of Morocco is nominal and an illusion, that the sovereignty of the Sultan does not exist in the eastern part of Morocco, and that those unsubdued regions have ceased to belong to what is wrongly called the Moorish Empire. Such is the policy now daily preached by the French press.

Forgive me, Sir, for having touched for a moment on this topic, in virtue of the liberty which we Senators possess, but which you do not enjoy, and which is the only practical advantage which we have over you.

But having said thus much, I must declare myself satisfied with your statements. As well I may be, seeing that you have put into your own eloquent words all that I think and

feel. Had I your eloquence I should have spoken as you have done—not having it, I have said thus little.

I am glad to have heard these statements from your lips.

I believe that the maintenance of this policy of *status quo* with respect to all the elements existing in Africa, in concert and agreement with all the Powers interested therein, is a sensible and serious policy, the only one which in the circumstances can guide our steps aright, and the only one, Sir, which does not lead to a Fashoda or a Melilla.

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 41.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 2, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 22nd February last, I have the honour to transmit copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Belgian Minister, as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, and the Sultan's Commissioner in regard to the position of protected Brazilian subjects. I am given to understand that there are many abuses connected with Brazilian protection, and my colleagues thought it advisable to ascertain, if possible, the exact position of the protected subjects of a Power which was not a signatory to the Madrid Convention.

Brazil was formerly represented in Tangier by the Portuguese Minister, but this arrangement was not continued after the retirement of M. de Colaço. She was then represented by a Consul who was a Jew of local origin, but who had acquired, with the usual facility, Brazilian naturalization. This gentleman has recently died, and no successor has as yet been appointed.

I am informed that some South and Central American Republics, whose interests are now under the charge of the Spanish Minister, are contemplating appointing naturalized subjects as Consular Representatives. Some, indeed, have issued commissions to these gentlemen, who are all of Hebrew-Moorish origin, but the Spanish Minister has declined to apply for their exequaturs.

It would be unfortunate if such appointments were made, and it would certainly be inconvenient if Powers not Signatories of the Madrid Convention, and having practically no commercial or political interests in Morocco, were allowed to enjoy the same privileges as regards protection as those which the European Powers have found it essential, in the present condition of the country, to acquire in order to safeguard their trade.

I believe that Mexico, Venezuela, the Argentine Republic, and Uruguay have issued Consular commissions, but none of the nominees has as yet taken up his post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

M. Anspach to Ben Saïd.

Ce 17 *Mars*, 1900.

AU cours de notre étude sur les propositions que vous nous avez soumises à propos de la Convention de Madrid, quelques observations ont été présentées au sujet de la situation des ressortissants Brésiliens. Le Brésil n'ayant pas adhéré à la Convention de 1880, le Corps Diplomatique désire être fixé d'une manière exacte sur les droits que le Gouvernement Marocain reconnaît aux Brésiliens, sur les obligations auxquelles ils sont tenus, et sur les actes et documents d'où ces droits résultent et où ces obligations sont inscrites.

(Signé) ANSPACH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Ben Saïd to M. Anspach.

(Translation.) *Ce 25 Mars*, 1900.

NOUS avons reçu votre lettre en date du 17 Mars disant qu'au cours de votre étude sur les propositions que nous vous avons soumises à propos de la Convention de Madrid quelques observations ont été présentées au sujet de la situation des ressortissants Brésiliens.

Le Brésil n'ayant pas adhéré à la Convention de 1880, le Corps Diplomatique désire être fixé d'une manière exacte sur les droits que le Gouvernement Marocain reconnaît aux Brésiliens, sur les obligations auxquelles ils sont tenus et sur les actes et documents d'où ces droits résultent et où ces obligations sont inscrites.

Veuillez informer le Corps Diplomatique que la réponse sur les questions mentionnées ci-dessus relativement à la nation Brésilienne est que la communication que nous vous avons faite est adressée particulièrement aux Représentants des Puissances amies Signataires de la dite Convention. Quant au Brésil, des négociations auront lieu avec lui et lorsque les stipulations de la Convention seront établies d'une façon claire pour être observées strictement il appartiendra au Gouvernement Marocain de voir ce qu'il doit faire avec le Brésil étant donné que jusqu'à cette heure il n'existe pas de Traité avec lui.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

M. Anspach to Ben Saïd.

Ce Avril, 1900.

J'AI reçu la lettre du 25 Mars me priant d'informer le Corps Diplomatique que la réponse aux questions posées relativement à la nation Brésilienne est que la communication que vous nous avez faite est adressée particulièrement aux Représentants des Puissances amies Signataires de la Convention. Quant au Brésil, des négociations auront lieu avec lui et lorsque les stipulations de la Convention seront établies d'une façon claire pour être observées strictement il appartiendra au Maghzen de voir ce qu'il doit faire avec le Brésil étant donné que jusqu'à cette heure il n'existe pas de Traité avec lui.

J'ai transmis votre lettre à mes collègues qui m'ont chargé de vous répondre que les négociations qui peuvent avoir lieu plus tard entre le Gouvernement Marocain n'est pas ce qui les intéresse. Ce qu'ils veulent savoir c'est en vertu de quel privilège les citoyens Brésiliens jouissent de tous les droits de la Convention de Madrid sans être astreints aux obligations qu'elle impose ; tant qu'ils ne seront pas fixés d'une manière catégorique sur ce point ils estiment qu'il est inutile de continuer l'étude des propositions que vous leur avez soumises.

(Signé) ANSPACH.

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 42.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 3, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 25th ultimo, I am informed, privately, from the Court, that the Grand Vizier and his chief advisers are much disquieted at the news which they have received from Insalah, and that they fear that the large French reinforcements which, it is reported, are on their way, may lead the French to occupy further territory. I am told that the tribes who have caused the French force to retire provisionally have written to the Moorish Government to ask for advice and supplies of arms and ammunition, and that the Grand Vizier is perplexed as to the nature of the reply and of the assistance which he should send.

I am also informed that the Grand Vizier intends to send Cid Larbi-el-Menehir to Tangier to discuss the recent events with the French Minister, and that if he is unable

to obtain any satisfactory results, he is instructed to consult with all the foreign Representatives on the general question of the action and attitude of France towards Morocco. Cid Larbi is the second Cadi of Morocco city, and, though an able man, has no experience of European diplomacy or knowledge of European politics.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 5, 1900.

I HAD an opportunity to-day of inquiring of the French Chargé d'Affaires what news he had received in regard to recent French operations in the neighbourhood of Insalah, and whether the reported capture of Inrar, an oasis to the west of, and close to, Insalah, had been confirmed.

M. de la Martinière told me that he had no further news than what had appeared in the "Temps," but that he clearly understood what had occurred. After the occupation of Insalah he knew that the French Government had sent orders that the neighbouring oases and strategic points should be occupied, and it was clear to him that Lieutenaat-Colonel d'Eu had advanced with that object to Inrar, where he had found a large assembly of Touaregs and others, whom he had successfully dispersed with considerable losses. Among the prisoners was apparently a personage styling himself the Basha of Timni, one of the Touat oases, and he imagined that very shortly the Touat oasis itself would be occupied, as well as Timmimoun.

M. de la Martinière observed that all those who were interested in the maintenance of the integrity of Morocco should be grateful to France for having taken these very necessary police measures without paying attention to the visionary claims of the Sultan of Morocco. He was for several years Colonial Secretary in Algeria, and he could assure me that scarcely a fortnight passed without complaints being made to the Governor-General as to razzias from the tribes on the sonth-west frontier. If the French Government had admitted the claim of the Sultan to sovereignty over these districts, His Majesty would necessarily have been held responsible for the preservation of good order. It was well known that the Sultan possessed no control whatever over the tribes, and therefore a continued inability to fulfil his obligations would very probably have led to the "Moorish question" being opened, an eventuality which every one wished to avoid. In treating Touat and the neighbouring districts as entirely outside Morocco, and in absolving the Sultan from all responsibility, France had adopted a course which steered clear of all international difficulties.

M. de la Martinière added that the commercial value of the districts which had been, or would be shortly, occupied was practically non-existent, as trade now ran through Timbuctoo and Senegal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I beg leave to transmit an article in the "Réveil du Maroc," which M. de la Martinière informed me he had requested the editor to write, so as to remove misapprehensions as to the recent action of France.

A. N.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of April 5, 1900.

LE nouveau Ministre de France au Maroc, M. Revoil, a quitté la France, il est déjà en route pour venir prendre possession du poste auquel le Gouvernement de la République l'a appelé voilà deux mois. A l'heure actuelle, M. Revoil est à Tunis où il prend congé de ses amis, organise son départ et boucle ses malles, avant de partir pour Tanger où on l'attend vers la Pâques.

Son itinéraire est la voie de terre jusqu'à Alger et Oran, où le croiseur cuirassé

"Le Latouche Tréville," mis à la disposition du Ministre par le Gouvernement, suivant la tradition diplomatique, le prendra à son bord et le conduira au Maroc.

Tel est le fait de la venue prochaine du Ministre de France dans sa simplicité. Ni hâte, ni précipitation dans son voyage, ni mission diplomatique secrète ou extraordinaire, encore moins, envoi d'une escadre, comme on le lit dans certaines feuilles de Paris ou de l'étranger, pour appuyer son débarquement ou soutenir des réclamations que certainement le nouveau fonctionnaire n'aura pas à formuler; car rarement comme aujourd'hui les relations de Paris avec Marrakesh ont été meilleures, courtoisement, et habilement maintenues durant un assez long intérim par le Chargé d'Affaires, M. de la Martinière, un de nos diplomates les plus au courant des choses Marocaines et Algériennes, dont il s'est fait une spécialité.

La prise d'In-Salah, la marche vers Igli, l'occupation des oasis qui constituent la route la plus naturelle et la plus sûre vers le Touat et qui forment partie intégrante du Sahara Algérien, qui constituent l'hinterland de l'Algérie, n'ont pas plus ému la Cour de Marrakesh qu'elles n'ont froissé les Chancelleries Européennes, qui savent très bien que les plus récentes Conventions signées avec Lord Salisbury relativement à l'Afrique n'ont fait que confirmer cette parole de M. Ribot, demeurée la pierre de touche de la politique Française en cette zone Africaine: "Le Touat n'est pas une question Marocaine, ni une question internationale: c'est une question Algérienne."

Donc ni le Sultan, ni son Grand Vizir, si intelligent et si subtil, n'ont été surpris de la reprise d'une politique un peu plus active de la part du nouveau Gouverneur de l'Algérie, M. Laferrière. Ils savent très bien que lente ou rapide, il s'exerce là une fatalité inéluctable, une loi de soudure qui tend à réunir les possessions de la France du Nord de l'Afrique à celles de l'Ouest, et que le Maroc n'a nulle qualité pour s'opposer à l'exécution de cette loi, surtout quand son territoire est soigneusement respecté.

De l'importance des effectifs engagés dans cette campagne Saharienne, de cette œuvre de police tout récemment inaugurée, résultent les plus clairs avantages pour l'Empire du Moghreb comme pour l'Afgérie. Les populations sédentaires de l'Empire, les tribus agricoles de la frontière n'ont qu'à gagner à l'écartement successif des nomades, des Arabes visiteurs du désert si facilement déprédateurs.

Telle la situation au Maroc et sur sa frontière dans son exacte vérité et sa nue simplicité

Il n'était peut-être pas mauvais de l'exposer et de remettre les choses au point quand on relève tout ce qui s'imprime sur ce même sujet et tout ce qui tend à alarmer l'opinion publique.

C'est voir les choses avec des verres ou faux ou singulièrement grossissants que de raconter par exemple que le nouveau Ministre de France a reçu l'ordre impromptu du Quai d'Orsay de venir rejoindre son poste, qu'il doit se rendre en hâte à Marakesrh pour y accomplir une mission diplomatique aussi grave que secrète, que la présence de croiseurs Français est rendue nécessaire dans les eaux de Tanger, ou bien que le Maghzen mobilise ses contingents pour repousser invasion ou débarquement.

La Légation de France à Tanger est très calme; non moins calme le Maghzen.

C'est également être frappé de Daltonisme ou ignorer les plus vulgaires notions de la géographie que d'annoncer que l'une des colonnes Françaises est en voie de violer le territoire Marocain et la neutralité Marocaine dans sa marche vers le Touat. Les routes qui conduisent au Touat suivies par les régiments Français ne soulèvent aucune question Marocaine, n'étant pas situées sur sol Marocain. Encore une fois le petit corps d'armée composé de troupes Algériennes qui opère au Tidikelt exécute son œuvre de police dans le Sahara Algérien.

On s'étonne souvent dans les recherches modernes touchant la vérité historique, de la peine que l'on éprouve à découvrir cette vérité à travers les récits erronés de l'histoire; comment aurait-on une vue nette des faits anciens, quand on voit de quelle façon on raconte ceux de l'histoire moderne?

No. 62.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received information from the Court that a reply has been received

by the Moorish Government to the representations which it made to the French Legation in regard to the occupation of Insalah. The French communication, I am told, informs the Moorish Government, in somewhat curt terms, that what has occurred is of no concern to Morocco, as the Tuat oases and the neighbouring districts are outside the Sultan's dominions. M. de la Martinière mentioned to me the other day that his reply had been delivered, and, from what he said, I also gathered that it was of the above tenour.

The Moorish Government has, in consequence of the reply, dispatched from Morocco city the official of whom I made mention in my despatch No. 42 of the 3rd instant.

This gentleman has received instructions to visit the French and other foreign Representatives in Tangier, and request that the whole frontier-line between Algeria and Morocco be definitively delimitated, and that the arrangement should be guaranteed by all the European Powers.

I am also informed that the Moorish Government has received a report that the French forces have occupied Igli, only about three days' march from Tafilelt, and a considerable trade centre.

I understand that there is now great uneasiness at the Court in respect to French action, and that the leading men fear that unless the European Powers intervene in the matter, Morocco will be exposed to very grave dangers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 63.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 46. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister called upon me yesterday to inform me that he had received his final instructions in regard to the questions on which he was to treat with the Moorish Government.

His Government, he said, had finally decided to require that the neutral zone at Mellila should be delimitated, while giving a reasonable delay for the removal of the Riffian families who at present inhabited it. He was further to inform the Moorish Government that his Government had definitively fixed upon Ifui as the locality mentioned as Santa Cruz in the Treaty of 1860,* and to announce their intention of placing a fishing establishment there.

I asked M. de Ojeda whether the Moorish Government had ever admitted Ifui to be the place to which the Treaty referred, and he informed me that, after some discussion, a note had been addressed some time ago to the Spanish Legation, in which the Moorish Government, while maintaining its doubts on the subject, had agreed to accept the Spanish view.

I asked if the Spanish Government proposed to erect stores and other buildings there, and if a police force would be sent or forts established. M. de Ojeda said undoubtedly stores would have to be erected, and also some force—military or other—placed there for protection. As to forts, he did not know whether they would be considered necessary, but, in any case, a wall would have to be built round the establishment.

M. de Ojeda added that he was further instructed to apply to the Moorish Government for permission to carry pipes from Ceuta to the wells on the Gibel Musa. He was to use his own discretion as to suggesting any proprietary rights being also granted over the ground by which the pipes would run, and where the wells were situated. He would have to feel his way when at Court in regard to these matters.

He was, in conclusion, to discuss with the Grand Vizier what measures could best be adopted for stopping contraband trade into the Sus either from the Canary Islands or from the Spanish possessions south of Cape Bogador. The Moorish Government had frequently complained of the introduction of arms into the Sus, and he was to endeavour to come to some arrangement on the subject.

* Article VIII. "His Maroquin Majesty engages to cede for ever to Her Catholic Majesty on the coast of the ocean, close to Santa Cruz la Pequeña, ground that shall be sufficient for the formation thereon of a fishing establishment, similar to that which Spain possessed there in ancient times."

M. de Ojeda told me that he anticipated meeting with considerable difficulties in the discharge of his mission. He regretted that his suggestion, which I reported in my despatch No. 25 of the 2nd March, that the neutral zone at Melilla should be abandoned had not been adopted, but public opinion in Spain, he understood, would not have been contented with the surrender of any rights conceded under Treaty.

He also feared that the Moorish Government would endeavour to escape from allowing his countrymen to establish a footing at Ifui, and on this point he expected to meet with considerable opposition, although the Moorish Government was under an obligation to grant the site. He considered further that there might be some difficulty in the Moorish Government being in a position to cede, and in the Spanish Government acquiring peacefully, a place which was surrounded by somewhat turbulent tribes.

M. de Ojeda said that he was instructed to inform the Moorish Government that his Government no longer insisted on the punishment, as required in Article I of the Treaty of 1894, of those Riffians who had been guilty of creating the disturbances at Melilla which had necessitated the dispatch of an expedition under Marshal Martinez Campos.

M. de Ojeda proposes to leave Tangier in a day or two for the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 64.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1900.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports, under all reserve, a rumour which is current at that place that the tribes on the Algerian frontier near Figuig have been in collision with the French forces, and that the latter have suffered a reverse. The tribes, it is reported, were under the well-known Bu Amama, an influential Sheikh, and are said to have lost heavily in repelling the French troops.

The above news has received a partial confirmation from a private letter which I have received from the Court, and which informs me that it was reported at Morocco city that Bu Amama had induced the Beni M'Gil and other powerful tribes to take up arms against the French. The version at the Court is that Bu Amama is in French pay, and has instigated the tribes to undertake hostilities so as to furnish an excuse for the French to advance on Figuig itself.

I report these rumours as they reach me, and both Mr. McLeod and my informant at the Court are endeavouring to ascertain further details on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 16, 1900.

MY despatch No. 47 of the 9th instant.

In a letter dated the 13th instant I am informed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that further collisions between the French forces and the Moorish tribes have been reported in letters just received from Tafilet. The Moors, while admitting serious losses, claim that they were victorious. The letters from Tafilet add that a holy war is now being preached in the whole of that region, which is becoming highly excited.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 17, 1900.

MY despatch No. 48 of the 10th instant, reporting collisions between French troops and Moorish tribes near the frontier.

I am also informed from the Court that the French suffered a reverse near Figuig, losing many men as well as a large transport.

No. 67.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. Byrne.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1900.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, requesting a reply to your letter of the 11th March, 1899, relative to Adrar.

In your last-mentioned letter you inquired what steps were necessary to obtain permission to trade at Cape Juby, and you were informed that the matter would receive consideration.

Your letter was at once forwarded to Sir Arthur Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, who has since been in communication with the Moorish authorities on the subject. The Grand Vizier has requested that merchants should postpone operations at Cape Juby until custom-houses have been established there, and has promised that, as soon as the necessary preparations have been made, Her Majesty's Minister shall be informed.

Nothing further has as yet been heard from Her Majesty's Minister, but the matter will be borne in mind.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 68.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 8. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 10, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 5, Commercial, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that it is most probable that Dr. Reynaud will be selected by the Moorish Government as doctor for this year of the quarantine station at Mogador Island.

The Sanitary Council, through the Italian Minister, who is at present at the Court, asked that arrangements should be made for the establishment of the above-mentioned quarantine station.

The Moorish Government consented to do so, but requested that the appointment of the doctor should be left for them to make from a list of candidates submitted by the Sanitary Council. The Government at the same time expressed a wish that the doctor should not be chosen from those resident in Morocco.

The Sanitary Council suggested that it should apply to the Board of Health at Constantinople for some names of doctors, as it was considered that that body would be in a position to indicate doctors who had some experience of Oriental lazarets.

The Moorish Government intimated that it would prefer if no application of that nature were made to Constantineple, as they had no relations with Turkey.

The objection seemed somewhat frivolous, but in these matters it is best to conciliate the Government as much as possible.

This correspondence had taken up much time, and as the pilgrims had left for Mecca, and would be returning in two or three months, and as there are many preliminary arrangements to make, it was necessary to engage a doctor as soon as possible. The Sanitary Council, therefore, to expedite matters, applied to the neighbouring Governor-General of Algeria, and he has submitted two names, of which that of Dr. Reynaud is one. The names have been communicated to the Moorish Government, and it is quite likely it will select Dr. Reynaud. The engagement will be for four months.

There is no political object whatever in the appointment, and I have no fear that any developments will occur of an unexpected nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 10, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, giving more detailed information as to the rumours current at Fez regarding alleged conflicts between the French forces and the Moorish tribesmen near Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Macleod respecting Reports of Fighting near Figuig.

I HAVE been inquiring into the reports which have reached here the last few days regarding recent fighting near Figuig.

The reports seem to have come in letters received by Moorish merchants here from their agents at Tafilet.

In these it is stated that a body of French troops was attacked on the 5th March (or so) by a Moorish force, consisting of levies of the Aits Atta, Beni Gil, Ulad Jerir, and Duiminni, commanded by the celebrated Sheikh, Ben Ammama, at Nakhelat-bel-Brahini, near Wad Suesfana. (See War Office Intelligence Division, Map No. 746.)

The tribesmen were repulsed, and were pursued during the following day to Wad Saina (this, I presume, is the Wad Mestaura marked on Map No. 746), where, on the 7th March, the French forces were defeated, and lost some cannon and a number of transport.

No numbers of the killed and wounded on the French side are mentioned. One report, however, says they were very numerous, and that the rank and file were massacred after the fight, the officers alone being kept as prisoners for the sake of the ransoms they might fetch.

The tribesmen, however, are said—by their own admissions—to have lost 400 killed, including eighteen Chiefs of the Aits Atta, whose names and the tokens of whose death were seen by the Tafilet people who sent this news to Fez. No mention is made of the number of tribesmen wounded.

My informants here state that Nakhelat-bel-Brahini, the scene of the first conflict, is a day's march—say, 30 to 40 miles—*inside* the Moorish frontier, and Wad Saina, the field of the last fight, two days' march—say, 60 to 80 miles—inside the Moorish limits.

I cannot, however, verify this statement, as the new maps I have here—*i.e.*, our Intelligence Division, No. 746, the French Army Map, 1896, and Flotte de Roquevaire's Map, 1897—do not indicate the dividing line. Roquevaire, indeed, says that the frontier has never been delimited beyond Teniet Sassi, which is only about 120 kilom. from the Mediterranean. In an undated English Map (Wyld's) the boundary alleged

to have been fixed by the Franco-Moorish Treaty of the 18th March, 1844,* is marked, however, and, according to it, the region now referred to is from 50 to 90 miles inside Morocco.†

I mentioned these current reports to M. Gaillard, the Acting French Vice-Consul here, casually, but he declared them pure inventions, and said that the only French troops in that region were some small detachments escorting the Flamande Mission to Ain Salah, and that the only conflicts with Arabs of late had been those of the Flamande Mission about eleven weeks ago, of which accounts appeared in the French press. M. Gaillard says that if the fighting now spoken of has really occurred, it must have been either an inter-tribal conflict between Moorish and Algerian Arabs or a conflict between a handful of French troops who had pursued—as by the Treaty of 1844 is permitted mutually—some Algerian Arabs into Moorish territory.

Still, while only mentioning these reports for what they are worth, and bearing in mind the exaggeration and looseness of statement almost invariable in Moorish versions of events, I would observe that they are much more persistent and circumstantial than any reports reaching here from that quarter during recent years.

Extracts from Franco-Moorish Treaty of March 18, 1845.

ARTICLE I.

Les deux Plénipotentiaires sont convenus que les limites qui existaient autrefois entre le Maroc et la Turquie resteront les mêmes entre l'Algérie et le Maroc. Aucun des deux Empires ne dépassera la limite de l'autre. Aucun d'eux n'élèvera à l'avenir de nouvelles constructions sur le tracé de la limite; elle ne sera pas désignée par des pierres. Elle restera, en un mot, telle qu'elle existait entre les deux pays avant la conquête de l'Empire d'Algérie par les Français.

* * * * * * *

ARTICLE III.

De là (extrême Tell) elle prend la direction sud jusqu'à Khen-el-Hada, d'où elle marche sur Teniet-el-Sas, col dont la jouissance appartient au deux Empires.

ARTICLE IV.

Dans le Sahara (désert) il n'y a pas de limite territoriale à établir entre les deux pays puisque la terre ne se laboure pas, et qu'elle sert seulement de parage aux Arabes des deux Empires qui viennent y camper pour y trouver les pâturages et les eaux qui leur sont nécessaires. Les deux Souverains exerceront, de la manière qu'ils l'entendront, toute la plénitude de leurs droits sur leurs sujets respectifs dans le Sahara. Et, toutefois, si l'un des deux Souverains à procéder contre ses sujets du moment où ces derniers seraient mêlés avec ceux de l'autre État, il procédera comme il l'entendra sur les siens, mais il s'abstiendra envers les sujets de l'autre Gouvernement.

Ceux des Arabes qui dépendent de l'Empire du Maroc sont les M'bei, les Beni Guil, les Hamian-Djenba, les Eumour-Sahara, et les Oulad Sidi Cheikhs et Gharaba.

Ceux des Arabes qui dépendent de l'Algérie sont les Sidi Cheikh-el-Charaga et tous les Hamian-Djenba susnommés.

ARTICLE V.

Cet Article est relatif à la désignation des "kessours" (villages du désert) des deux Empires. Les deux Souverains suivront, à ce sujet, l'ancienne coutume établie

* Should be 1845.

† For facility of reference I append some extracts from the Franco-Moorish Treaty of March 18, 1845, bearing on this point.

par le temps, et accorderont, par considération, l'un pour l'autre égards de bienveillance aux habitants de ces kessours.*

Les kessours qui appartiennent à l'Algérie sont Ain Safra, S'fissefa Assla Tiout, Chellala-el-Abiad, et Bou Semghonne.

ARTICLE VI.

Quant au pays qui est au sud des kessours des deux Gouvernements, comme il n'y pas d'eau, qu'il est inhabitable, et que c'est le désert, proprement dit la délimitation, en serait superflue.

Fez, April 4, 1900.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 12, 1900.

THE Austro-Hungarian Minister called on me yesterday and informed me that he had received a despatch from his Government expressing some anxiety lest the regrettable embarrassment ("bedauerliche Verlegenheit") in which Great Britain found herself in South Africa should encourage France to pursue a policy of encroachment in Morocco, and instructing him to keep them fully informed as to the progress of events in this country.

Count Hoenwart said that his Government had hitherto taken a very languid interest in Moorish affairs, and he was desirous of stimulating the curiosity it now evinced.

I informed Count Hoenwart of the approaching visit of the Moorish Delegate, which I reported in my despatch No. 45 of the 9th instant, and also communicated to him the instructions with which I believed the Delegate was furnished. I had learnt from the Sultan's Deputy that the Delegate had already reached Mazagan, and would arrive in Tangier by the first steamer from the coast. I also gave Count Hoenwart all the information I possessed as to the reported movements of French troops on the frontier, but I warned him that the reports which emanated from Moorish sources should be received with caution, as Orientals were prone to exaggerate and distort facts.

Count Hoenwart inquired what reply I should give to the Moorish Delegate should he address himself to me on the Tuat and other cognate questions. I replied that I would simply listen to what he had to say, and inform him that I would transmit his communication to my Government. I should carefully guard myself from expressing any opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 22, 1900.

MOROCCO Algerian frontier.

I have received a private and urgent message from the Grand Vizier, in which he states that the recent action of the French near the frontier-line causes him grave anxiety; he also asks me to request the intervention of Her Majesty's Government, either alone or else in conjunction with other foreign Powers, to insist on the delimitation of a new frontier-line.

The Grand Vizier hopes that England will not abandon Morocco; he fears further advance on the part of the French, and considers that the situation is grave.

The special Envoy sent from the Court has arrived at Tangier, but has, up to the present, paid no visits.

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* Les Kessours qui appartiennent au Maroc sont ceux de Yiche et Figuigue.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 14, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Spanish Minister left here to-day in the Spanish cruizer "Carlos V" for Mazagan, whence he will proceed on his mission to the Court. M. de Ojeda was accompanied by two secretaries, two interpreters, three military officers, a doctor, the Apostolic Prefect, and a chaplain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 73.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 191.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 23, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting recent movements of troops in French colonial possessions in Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 21.)

(Extract.) *Paris, April* 23, 1900.

THE following items with regard to colonial movements appear in the French military press of the past week:—

Algeria.—The Tidikelt expeditionary column, under Colonel d'Eu, returned on the 6th instant to Insalah, after traversing the regions of Aoulef, Tir, and Akabil, leaving garrisons of Saharian troops at important posts where submission was made. The only action was that which took place at In-Rhar.

The column will shortly leave for El-Golea, leaving a strong garrison for the summer at Insalah.

An expedition is now being organized to start on the 25th instant for Timmimoum to occupy the Gourara.

It is stated that in Aoulef alone there are 600,000 palm trees. The whole of the Tidikelt is now said to be under French rule.

Of the Voulet-Chanoine Mission, Dr. Henrique and Sergeants Lory and Touret arrived on the 21st March at Kayes, and will shortly come home.

The "France Militaire" writes advocating the creation of a large Saharian Gendarmerie organization for the holding of the line Igli-Timmimoum Insalah; the natives, it argues, would make a more suitable force for this climate than the Tirailleurs or Algerian Spahis.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 24, 1900.

MOROCCO Algerian frontier.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 7 of yesterday's date.

On the 21st instant I was informed that the Moorish Government, after reflection, considered that the door had been closed to negotiations by the French reply to its

protest, and that the special Envoy had abandoned his intention of discussing matters with the French Legation. A despatch reporting this is on its way. I am now informed that before making any visits the Envoy is awaiting some documentary evidence in support of the claims of the Moorish Government to the districts occupied.

An early reply to his message, which is subsequent to any instructions sent to the Envoy, is anxiously awaited by the Grand Vizier.

I would suggest that, in order to tranquillize the Vizier for the moment, I should personally reply, and say that the message will be communicated to your Lordship, and that Her Majesty's Government will, I have no doubt, consider the matter carefully. I would also add expressions of friendship. As reports are so untrustworthy and contradictory, I would also ask the Grand Vizier that someone should be authorized to give me full information as to what has occurred. I have said nothing to any of my colleagues as to the message, though I gather that the Moorish Government quite anticipates that your Lordship will consult on the subject with other Governments.

It was suggested by the Grand Vizier that I should visit the capital, but a visit at the present moment would, I submit, be most inopportune. Much excitement has undoubtedly been caused throughout the country by recent events.

No. 75.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 25, 1900.

FRANCE and Morocco.

The personal reply suggested in the second paragraph of your telegram No. 13 of the 24th instant is approved.

At the present moment it would not be advisable that you should visit the capital.

No. 76.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 26, 1900.

MOROCCO Algerian frontier.

My telegram No. 13 of the 24th instant.

I received last night a letter from the Court informing me that the Grand Vizier hopes that the Powers may be disposed to see that some engagement be obtained from France that no further encroachments will be made; he is also anxious that a new frontier should be demarcated. If a further advance is made, the Grand Vizier fears that the already restless tribes will become quite beyond control, and that then the country will be in a state of general anarchy.

No. 77.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 17, 1900.

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a special courier from Fez conveying a letter, dated the 13th instant, from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place, which reported that information had been received that morning from Tafilelt to the effect that another conflict had occurred near the frontier between the French forces and the Moorish tribes. The spot where the collision is reported to have taken place is said to be Wad Dermel, about 17 miles north-east of Figuig. The Tafilelt letters reported that the French had four "camps," and that they were defeated, while the Moors suffered a loss of 180 killed. The letters added that the whole region was becoming highly excited, and that a holy war was being preached.

This morning I received private information from the Court to the effect that news had reached the Moorish Government that the tribes captured 1,800 camels from the French near Figuig, killed a number of men and forced the French to retire.

This encounter, I gather, must refer to that mentioned in Mr. Macleod's Memorandum, inclosed in my despatch No. 48, as having occurred on the 7th March at Wad Saura or Wad Mestaura, some 30 miles south of Figuig.

The Moorish authorities here are extremely anxious with regard to what is reported as taking place near the frontier; and Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida informs me that there is in his district "a great deal of restlessness" in the native mind about French action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 55. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1900.

I RECEIVED yesterday a letter by special courier from Morocco city, in which Kaïd Maclean informed me that the Grand Vizier had sent for him on the 16th instant, and had requested him to convey to me, by the speediest route, the following message:—

His Excellency wished, in the first place, to explain to me that, owing to the recent events in the Tuat districts, the tribes would not remain quiescent; some might possibly join the French, while others would undoubtedly offer resistance to the French forces.

He was of opinion that the French would not be displeased if the tribes adopted a hostile attitude, as a valid pretext would then be afforded for further advances on the part of the French troops. Morocco, the Vizier continued, had always looked upon Great Britain as a friend, and he trusted she would not now abandon this country, and that an appeal to Her Majesty's Government would not be in vain. He begged me to urge Her Majesty's Government to intervene, alone if possible, or, if this were inconvenient, then in conjunction with other Powers, and to insist on a new frontier line being delimitated.

The Grand Vizier desired to urge on me the necessity of prompt action, as he considered no time was to be lost, and he wished to warn me of the gravity of the situation.

The Grand Vizier added that the foreign Representatives had always advised the Moorish Government not to arm the tribes, but to rely upon the Powers maintaining the *status quo*. Surely their advice had not been offered with the view of leaving the country an easy prey to the first Power who wished to seize it? The tribes in Tuat and the neighbouring districts, the Grand Vizier stated, were very powerful; and had repeatedly asked the Moorish Government for arms and ammunition, and had even offered to pay for such assistance, but he had always refused their applications, and had informed the tribes that, so long as they kept quiet, the European Powers would not allow the French to molest them. Now, the Grand Vizier asked, what could he say, and what could he do?

The Grand Vizier trusted I should be able to send a reply as soon as possible, and he expressed a wish to see me in Morocco city.

The above is a transcript of what I have received; and I will await your Lordship's instructions as to the nature of the reply I should make to his Excellency's communication.

I am not aware of any advice having been tendered to the Moorish Government in regard to the supply of arms. This special point has not, to my knowledge, ever been raised. His Excellency evidently has interpreted, or wishes now to interpret, the occasional public utterances of European statesmen as to the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco as covering even the debatable land in the south, where Moorish authority is extremely vague and shadowy.

Be that as it may, the Grand Vizier is clearly most uneasy as to the immediate future, and is doubtless fully alive to the fact that Morocco, by herself, is unable to resist seriously, and with any hope of success, the advance of the French forces.

I am unable to predict whether such advance will be confined to the desert oases, or whether the reported hostilities in the Figuig neighbourhood will lead to the occupation of districts lying within Moorish dominions, and undoubtedly under the authority of the Sultan. If the reports of such hostilities are not greatly exaggerated it will be within the bounds of probability that the movement among the tribes will spread, and that the French military commanders may be compelled to push on beyond the limits within which they had originally desired to operate.

I may add that Cid Larbi-el-Menchir, the Sultan's special envoy, arrived here a few days ago, and is, I am informed, in consultation with the Sultan's deputy as to the time and manner in which he should approach the foreign Legations.

I am told that he does not intend to address himself to the French Legation, as their reply to the note of the Moorish Government, protesting against the occupation of Insalah, closed the door to any further negotiations. He will, it is said, probably apply in the first instance to the German and British Legations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 79.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 39. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 49, Confidential, of the 12th instant, giving an account of your conversation with the Austro-Hungarian Minister relative to the policy which France is likely to pursue with regard to Morocco, and the reported movements of French troops on the frontier.

The language used by you to Count Hoenwart, as reported in that despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1900.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 55, and telegrams Nos. 13 of the 24th and 14 of the 26th instant, respecting the action of French troops on the Morocco-Algerian frontier, any isolated intervention on the part of Great Britain is of course out of the question. You should consult with your colleagues, especially those of Italy and France, and ascertain whether they consider that any steps could usefully be taken at this juncture by the combined Mediterranean Powers.

No. 81.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 29, 1900.

MOROCCO Algerian frontier.

With reference to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of yesterday's date, to consult specially with my Italian and French colleagues: The latter is reticent, I believe, as to recent events, but I will sound him on the subject. The Italian Minister is now on his way from Morocco city, and it is expected that he will arrive here in about a fortnight's time.

No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 1, 1900.

MOROCCO Algerian frontier: My telegram No. 15 of the 29th ultimo.

The French Minister is opposed, I find, to the delimitation of a frontier-line, as, owing to constant migrations of the tribes, it would, he considers, be a most difficult task, and possibly would prove a source of trouble. He denied that there was any intention whatever of encroaching on territory which was undoubtedly Moorish. French policy was, he stated, in no wise directed againt the *status quo*, but was loyal and frank. He was well aware that there was suspicion and uneasiness both in the country and at the Court, and he had agreed, he informed me, to a suggestion on the part of the Spanish Minister that a tranquillizing assurance should be conveyed by the latter when visiting the Court.

I merely inquired whether there was any intention of defining a somewhat vague boundary more accurately, and our conversation was quite informal. I made no mention, of course, of having been in correspondence with your Lordship on the subject, or of any communication having been received from the Grand Vizier.

It might be advisable to leave matters alone for the present, and to take no steps with any of my other colleagues. If no further collisions occur, the Grand Vizier will possibly become more pacified.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1900.

FRANCE and Morocco frontier.

I approve your proceedings as reported in your telegram No. 16 of to-day's date.

You need, for the present, take no further action.

No. 84.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Satisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 4, 1900.

I HAVE just received a letter from the Court, stating that a serious turn has taken place in the condition of the Grand Vizier's health.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 27, 1900.

FROM letters which I received from the Court on the 25th instant, I understand that the Grand Vizier is desirous that the Powers, presumably on the initiative of Her Majesty's Government, should ascertain the objects the French Government has in view, and also obtain from France some engagement that no further encroachments on Moorish territory are contemplated. He also desires that steps should at once be taken for the delimitation of a new frontier, which I gather he hopes will be placed under a European guarantee.

It is not clear from what has been communicated to me whether the Grand Vizier resigns himself to the surrender of the districts already occupied by the French forces; or whether he hopes by the delimitation of a line which would definitely fix the boundaries along the whole frontier to obtain the restitution of some of the more important posts, such as Igli for instance.

The Grand Vizier is evidently extremely anxious as to the consequences which the recent action of the French forces may produce in this country. He states that all the tribes throughout Morocco are in a ferment; and he fears that unless the Moorish Government is placed in a position to assure them that no further advance of foreign troops will be made, that a state of anarchy will ensue.

Some of the tribes may be actuated by a determination to resist a foreign invader; but the danger most closely present to the mind of the Grand Vizier is, I think, that the approach of a foreign force may create the belief that the Moorish Government is about to be overturned, and that the rule which has pressed so hardly upon the people is about to be removed. With this prospect before them the Grand Vizier fears that the tribes will rise, and, as he expressed it to my informant, revolution and anarchy would sweep throughout the land. He is, then, desirous of extinguishing at once these expectations by making it widely known that further advances of the foreign forces are arrested, and that the boundaries of Morocco will shortly be definitely laid down.

From information which reaches me from several quarters, there can be no doubt but that recent events on the frontier have caused much unrest and excitement; and I am of opinion that the fears of the Grand Vizier are not without foundation.

I have communicated to the Grand Vizier a private message from myself, stating that I have conveyed to Her Majesty's Government the considerations and observations which he had transmitted to me, and that I have no doubt that they will be carefully considered.

I have thanked him for having communicated frankly with me, and I have assured him of my friendly feelings to him personally.

I have also suggested that, in view of the contradictory and untrustworty reports which are current, it would be of advantage if he would authorize some one to furnish me with full information as to what has occurred or may occur on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 86.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Madrid, April 30, 1900.*

YESTERDAY having informed Señor Silvela of my arrival his Excellency was good enough to call on me in the afternoon.

I inquired whether he felt any anxiety as to Morocco. To this he replied in the negative. No overture of any kind had been made to Spain concerning Morocco either by France or Russia, and the visit of Count Mouravieff to the Queen-Regent at San Sebastian was one merely of courtesy.

He did not think that at present France had any designs in Morocco itself, and she was engaged in fighting tribes equally hostile to herself and to the Sultan. The latter was satisfied with the explanation he had received, and had made no appeal to the Powers.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 5, 1900.*

MY telegram No. 17 of the 4th May.

I have received later letters, dated the 30th ultimo, in which it is reported that the condition of the Grand Vizier is most serious.

In the event of his Excellency's death, my informant considers that no grave troubles may ensue, but considers that as general disturbances may occur it would be advisable to be prepared for this eventuality. Commotions, I fear, will arise.

My colleagues have been informed by me of the grave condition of the Grand Vizier.

No. 88.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 7, 1900.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Foreign Office is yet in possession of any information respecting the reported movements of French troops within the territories or upon the frontiers of the territories of the Sultan of Morocco.

Answer.

The Foreign Office are aware that French troops have been operating in the Tuat oases, which is on the frontier of the territories of the Sultan of Morocco.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 1, 1900.*

DURING a visit which I paid to the French Minister this morning I mentioned to him that there appeared to be some little agitation in the country in consequence of the recent occupation of certain districts in the Tuat Oases, and M. Révoil replied that he was aware of this, and he expressed some surprise that the Moorish Government was disquieted at the accomplishment of a design which had been openly announced by M. Ribot in the French Chamber some eight years ago. Neither the French Government nor the French Legation, he continued, had ever disguised their intention of occupying the Tuat Oases whenever it appeared convenient to do so; and it was absurd on the part of the Moorish Government to pretend to regard the recent events as unexpected.

There was no intention whatever of violating the Treaty of 1845—an instrument which had been most loyally observed by France—nor was there any wish to disturb the *status quo* in this country, in the maintenance of which France had at least an equal interest with other countries.

The reasons for the recent occupation had, he believed, been fully explained to me by M. de la Martinière. I would beg leave to refer your Lordship to my despatch No. 43 of the 5th April on the subject.

I asked M. Révoil whether he thought it would be of advantage to mark out in greater detail than was at present the case a boundary-line between Morocco and Algeria, so that there could be no doubt as to their respective territorial limits.

M. Révoil said that this would be a very difficult task, as it would be almost impossible to define a frontier-line running amid tribes who were continually passing to and fro. He did not believe it possible to mark out what he termed "une frontière territoriale," and he thought it was more practical to assign certain tribes either to Morocco or Algeria, as had been done in the Treaty of 1845. If a hard and fast line were drawn there would be constant bickerings and petty annoyances, and it was preferable to leave the boundary-line somewhat indeterminate, merely recording that such and such tribes were under Moorish or French dominion.

There were certain localities such as Figuig and Tafilelt which could be said to have a frontier of their own, and which were clearly within Moorish territory.

He could assure me that the French authorities had always been loyal and honest in their dealings with the frontier tribes, and had been wonderfully patient in the face of several provocations.

I hinted that it would be unfortunate for general commercial interests if the country were to lapse into a condition of turmoil and unrest, just as it was recovering from the disorders which had been prevalent after the death of the late Sultan. M. Révoil agreed with me, and said that he hoped that the Moorish Government would preserve order. The Spanish Minister, he added, had, just before his departure for the Court, suggested that he should convey some tranquillising assurances to the Moorish Government as to French intentions, and that he had willingly empowered M. de Ojeda to do so. He himself had had no correspondence or communication

with the Moorish Government or with any Moorish Commissioner since the French Legation had replied to the Moorish protest in respect to the occupation of Insaleh; but he had no objection to pacifying messages being conveyed to the Grand Vizier.

After this conversation with M. Révoil I hardly think any good purpose would be served by my consulting with any of my other colleagues. I think I should be carrying out your Lordship's wishes in inviting as little attention as possible to recent events, and in not creating the impression that we are desirous of raising a question or of setting diplomatic machinery to work.

There remains the Moorish Government and the anxiety and purturbation which the Grand Vizier is exhibiting, and also the agitation which the public mind is evincing. Should no further collisions occur between the French forces and the tribes, this effervescence will, I think, gradually subside, and the occupation of the Tuat Oases will eventually be accepted as an accomplished fact, which the oriental mind will recognize as a pre-ordained event. I could privately convey to the Grand Vizier my opinion that the French Government has no deeply-laid projects injurious to the stability and integrity of the Moorish dominions, and point out to him the difficulties which lie in the way of a strictly defined boundary. It would be well to allow a little time to elapse, however, before bringing these points to his attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 90.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 10, 1900.

I AM informed by a letter dated the 4th instant from the Court that the Grand Vizier is still alive; however, the English doctor considers his case hopeless.

According to my information the Sultan will take no action and refuses to see any one, and the uncertainty produced by this inaction on his part, is very likely, if further prolonged, to bring about a situation full of danger.

No. 91.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Madrid, May* 4, 1900.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs called on me yesterday to inform me of the death of the brother of the Grand Vizier of Morocco, and renewed the assurances previously given me of the desire of Government to work on the most cordial terms with Her Majesty's Government.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1900.

I REGRET to have to report that letters, dated the 27th and 30th ultimo, which I have received from the Court announce that the Grand Vizier is very dangerously ill. Another brother of his died quite recently of influenza, and this second loss deeply affected the Grand Vizier, who fell seriously ill himself of influenza accompanied with grave complications.

The British doctor, Dr. Verdon, has been in constant attendance on his Excellency, but his condition became so grave that he called in the assistance of the French doctor, Dr. Linares, as well as of the Spanish doctor attached to the Spanish Mission. Dr. Verdon tells me, in a letter dated the 30th ultimo, that the Grand Vizier has on several occasions been at death's door, and was only revived by means of oxygen, made by Kaïd Maclean, who has the necessary apparatus.

Dr. Verdon says that on the 29th ultimo Dr. Linares, speaking on behalf of the other physicians, informed the Minister of Finance, who is the chief adviser of the Grand Vizier, that his Excellency was in a most critical condition; that even if he were to recover, the convalescence would be a lengthy one, and that in no case would his Excellency ever be in a position to devote himself so assiduously as hitherto to the work of the Government. The physicians thought it right to bring this to the knowledge of the Moorish Government, so that arrangements might be made for the proper conduct of affairs.

Those who are best informed consider that if the Sultan is ready to adopt a bold and strong position immediately on the death of the Grand Vizier no troubles will arise, but if no previous arrangements are made and the Government is taken unprepared, disorders and tumults will ensue. The difficulty of the situation is that no one has the courage to propose to the Sultan any precautionary or necessary measures, or even the appointment of a *locum tenens* during the Grand Vizier's illness, as, if his Excellency were to recover, he would visit with the severest punishment any one who had submitted to His Majesty measures suggesting the possibility of his death or retirement.

I have thought it right to inform my colleagues of the news I have received as to the grave condition of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1900.

CID BENASSER GHANNAM, one of the Sultan's resident Commissioners here, called upon me this morning, and said that he had been instructed to speak to me, in a friendly and private manner, as to what had occurred in Tuat Oases. He wished to recall to my recollection the note which had been addressed by the British Legation in 1891 to the Moorish Government; and inquired whether, in my opinion, that note did not recognize the sovereignty of the Sultan over the Tuat Oases. He also wished to know whether the French official map of 1848, to which the British Legation on another occasion in 1891 had drawn the attention of the Moorish Government, could not be adduced as a proof that the French Government itself had admitted that the Tuat Oases were within the dominions of His Majesty. He further desired to be informed whether the communication made by the French Minister, M. Patenôtre, in 1891, announcing the intention of the French Government to punish the Tuat tribes, and requesting the Sultan not to intervene, was not tantamount to acknowledging that the Sultan had some rights over the tribes.

I replied that, in the first place, my information as to what had occurred recently in the Tuat Oases was only derived from public rumour; and that secondly, as I had not the documents to which he referred before me, I was not in a position to express any opinion on them.

I asked Cid Benasser Ghannam whether he, or the Special Envoy, or the Moorish Government had been in communication with the French Legation.

He replied that a protest had been addressed to the French Legation when the occupation of Insaleh had occurred; and that the French Legation had replied to the effect that the matter was of no concern to the Moorish Government. A second note had been addressed by the Moorish Government, to which, hitherto, no reply had been made. He was unable to state the terms of the correspondence, as it had passed through the hands of Cid Mohammed Torres, the Deputy of the Sultan.

I thought it advisable not to enter further into the question; but Cid Benasser Ghannam continued to press me for an expression of opinion. I maintained that I must, in the first place, look up the past correspondence. He begged me to do so; and then to appoint a day to see him again.

The correspondence to which Cid Ghannam alludes is to be found at pp. 103, 133, and 149 of the Confidential Prints, Part 4, in regard to Moorish affairs, 1891.

I propose to delay inviting Cid Ghannam to revisit me, as it is inconvenient being led into an expression of opinion on a matter which has already been decided in a practical manner by the French authorities. The Moorish Government, so far as I

can ascertain, when the Tuat question was still undecided, never thought fit to follow the advice which was given subsequent to 1891, and address itself to all the Governments. It allowed the question to drift on; and now, when brought face to face with accomplished facts, it appeals to a former correspondence relating to a condition of things no longer existing.

If any advice has eventually to be privately tendered to the Grand Vizier, I would submit that it might take the form of suggesting that it would be prudent on the part of the Moorish Government to limit its endeavours to procuring from the French Government an assurance that there is no intention of departing from the provisions of the Treaty of 1845; and that the *status quo* in Morocco will be duly observed. But, in the first instance, it would, perhaps, be advisable if I recommended the Moorish Commissioner to address himself to other Legations on the subject. I would, however, await your Lordship's instructions before making any suggestion whatever to Cid Benasser Ghannam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 94.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 6, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Special Envoy of the Sultan, Cid Larby-el-Menehir, who had arrived at Tangier to discuss the Tuat question, died suddenly last night. I am informed that he was in his bath, and was asphyxiated by charcoal fumes from a brazier before assistance could arrive. The sad event was, I believe, purely accidental.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 11, 1900.*

I HAVE received a report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that news from Tafilet, of the date 29th April, has reached him, stating that an alliance has been formed among themselves by all the tribes of that district. A Commander-in-chief has been appointed by them, and they propose making an attack on the French forces on the 9th instant.

The tribes are of opinion that the real objective of the French movements is Tafilet, and that an immediate attack on the French troops, with as large a force as they can raise, would be their best form of defence.

No attempt is being made by the Moorish officials at Tafilet to keep the tribes in check. If this news should prove true, and Mr. Macleod appears to think so, the situation will be most grave.

I should propose, with your Lordship's consent, to make this news known to my German and Italian colleagues.

No. 96.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 12, 1900.*

I AUTHORIZE you to inform your German and Italian colleagues, as proposed in your telegram No. 20 of the 11th instant, of the news which has reached you as to threatening attitude of the tribes in the Tafilelt district.

No. 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 14, 1900.*

MY telegram No. 20 of the 11th instant.

Information has reached me from Morocco city confirming the news which I had received from Fez concerning the proposed attack on the French forces, which are said to be about three days' march from Tafilet, by a coalition of the tribes of this district.

There has been, in consequence, an interruption in the trade between Tafilet and Fez.

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 15, 1900.*

I HAVE received news from the Court, dated the 9th instant, in which it is stated that the doctors now have hopes of the Grand Vizier's recovery, as he has suddenly rallied.

Above information forwarded to Madrid.

No. 99.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 44. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 16, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 58, Confidential, of the 1st instant, recording your conversation with the French Minister, in which he discussed the policy hitherto pursued by the French Government with regard to Morocco, and informed you that they had no wish to disturb the *status quo* in that country.

I agree in the view expressed in that despatch that after your conversation with M. de Revoil no good purpose would be served by your consulting with any of your colleagues, and I approve the suggestion that when some little time has been allowed to elapse you should privately convey to the Grand Vizier your opinion that the French Government have no deeply laid projects against the integrity of the Moorish dominions, and should point out the difficulties in the way of a strictly defined boundary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 100.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 18, 1900.*

THE death of the Grand Vizier occurred on the 13th instant. At Morocco city there appears to be some excitement, but no further details have reached me.

Above information sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 101.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 20, 1900.

INFORMATION has reached me from the Court that the Sultan has taken the Government into his own hands and is acting energetically; the principal people have been informed that now he alone governs. His Majesty has named as Acting Vizier a cousin of the deceased, and members of the latter's family or of his party have been appointed to the posts which have been vacant for some time. There should be little or no trouble if His Majesty continues to act with this vigour.

The Sultan, it is believed, had received from the Grand Vizier full suggestions as to the course which, in the event of the latter's death, it was recommended that His Majesty should pursue.

Above information sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador, Madrid.

No. 102.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Tangier May* 8, 1900.

THE French Minister paid me a visit this afternoon, when the condition of the Grand Vizier's health was mentioned in the course of conversation. M. Révoil informed me that the letters he had received from the French doctor, Dr. Linares, gave cause for grave uneasiness. I asked M. Révoil what were his views as to the consequences which would ensue should the illness have a fatal termination. M. Révoil said that his experience of this country was far too short to justify him in making any forecasts, but it seemed to him that the situation was a serious one. The Grand Vizier had, he observed, centralized everything in his hands, and had rendered the Sultan, an inexperienced and apparently weak youth, entirely dependent on him. No initiative or energy could be expected from His Majesty, and as the Grand Vizier had many enemies and there was an elder brother of the Sultan kept in detention in Morocco city, he thought that there was a possibility of the malcontents rallying round a dispossessed heir to the throne, and rendering the position of the Sultan precarious.

I said that I believed recent Moorish history could show few, if any, examples of a Sovereign being dethroned by violent measures.

M. Révoil said that this might be historically true, but still he doubted if any similar conditions as those which now existed could be found in past times. In any case he feared that when the hand which had preserved a certain order and quietude in the country was removed that tumults would ensue, and he himself looked forward to a troublous time.

M. Révoil had no later news than myself as to the state of the Grand Vizier's health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 8, 1900.

IN the course of conversation this morning, the German Minister mentioned the Tuat question to me, and inquired what was my opinion on the subject, and whether I considered that the Moorish Government would send a Mission to the European Courts to lay the case before the Powers.

I told Baron de Mentzingen that I had heard nothing as to the despatch of a Mission to Europe, and that I thought it improbable one would be sent in view of the grave condition of the health of the Grand Vizier. My private opinion was that the

Moorish Government would do well to resign itself to the occupation of the Tuat districts and of Igli, as I imagined that the French would not abandon them. It seemed to me that it would be wiser if the Moorish Government were to endeavour to obtain an assurance from the French Legation that the main positions of the Treaty of 1845 would be observed, and that the integrity of Morocco would be respected. This appeared to me a more practical course to pursue than engaging in discussions as to vague rights of sovereignty over territories already tightly in the grip of the other party.

I believed the Moorish Government attached importance to the fact of the French official map of 1848 having placed Tuat within Moorish dominions, and I showed Baron de Mentzingen an Arabic copy of the map which I happened to have by me. But this map was over 50 years old, and I doubted if its authority would be admitted by the French Government. I explained to Baron de Mentzingen that what I had told him was merely my private opinion, which I had not mentioned to any Moorish official, nor did I know, indeed, if it was shared by my Government.

The German Minister said that from a conversation he had with M. Révoil he understood that the French had no intention of encroaching on undoubted Moorish territory. Cid Benasser Ghanam had, he told me, inquired of him what was his opinion as to the recent French movements, but that he had refrained from expressing any views, beyond stating that he presumed that in every dispute each party considered he was in the right.

As Cid Benasser Ghanam had begged me to treat his visit to me as confidential, I did not think I was justified in mentioning it to my German colleague, and so I closed the conversation by saying that as matters at present stood, I would prefer not being led into discussions with Moorish officials on the subject.

I may mention that Cid Benasser Ghanam, in his interview with me, had stated that he had had no communication with any foreign Legation, a statement which is hardly confirmed by what the German Minister told me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 104.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 8, 1900.

THE German Minister told me to-day that he had a troublesome question with the Moorish Government arising out of the murder of a German protégé, in an affray between two tribes three years ago. The protégé belonged to one of the tribes, and was killed in consequence of a vendetta. The German Legation, by order of its Government, had repeatedly asked for the punishment of the offenders, but had received no satisfaction whatever from the Grand Vizier, who sent vague and elusive replies.

The 15th April had been fixed by the German Government as the date on which a definite reply should be given by the Grand Vizier, and this date had subsequently been extended to the 15th instant. A further postponement would now be necessary owing to the illness of the Grand Vizier; but Baron de Mentzingen said that his Government would insist eventually on obtaining satisfaction.

I asked the German Minister what action his Government would take if the matter were not arranged by whatever date was eventually fixed, and he replied that this was a matter for his Government to decide. He himself was somewhat perplexed as to what could be done, supposing that the Moorish Government persisted in avoiding compliance with the demands of his Government; but he remarked that it would be well if a severe lesson were inflicted, as the Moorish Government was accustomed to allow matters to proceed almost to extremities and then to yield at the last moment, after having caused much trouble and annoyance to foreign Governments.

He thought that it should be shown that these methods would no longer be tolerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 105.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 11, 1900.

I RECEIVED last night a courier from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, who informed me that news had just arrived from Tafilet, dated the 29th April, reporting a serious movement among all the tribes in that district and its neighbourhood. The reports stated that the tribes had agreed to suspend all inter-tribal feuds and differences, and had formed a formal alliance among themselves to resist the French advance to the last extremity. It was also stated that the tribes had elected as their Commander-in-chief a Sheikh of the Aito Atta tribe, and that the united levies were to attack, in overwhelming numbers, the French forces about the 9th instant, with the view of compelling the latter to retire from the positions which had been recently occupied. It was further reported that the Viceroy of Tafilet and the other Moorish officials were not attempting to restrain the movement, nor were they in any way encouraging it; but that they had adopted a passive attitude in view of their instructions from the Court to take no steps of a hostile nature.

It is further said that the tribes are convinced that Tafilet is the real objective of the French advance, and they, therefore, consider that the best mode of defence is to attack the French troops in as great a force and as speedily as possible.

Mr. Macleod adds that the reports as to the foregoing are all very clear and consistent, and dwell especially on the fact that the whole region is deeply stirred and eager to attack.

I communicate the above to your Lordship as it has reached me, as I have no means at my disposal of controlling or sifting reports from that remote region.

If the reports are not exaggerated, and Mr. Macleod does not appear to think so, and if an attack in force is made on the French troops, scattered in relatively small detachments, it is possible that initial successes might be obtained. But I fear that the hostilities would lead to the eventual occupation of the Tafilet oasis, which would be a most serious matter to this country, and would have far graver consequences than the acquisition of Tuat and the neighbouring districts.

Tafilet is the cradle of the dynasty, is inhabited by many branches of the reigning family, and it is a large trade centre. Its occupation by the French would cause a great agitation throughout Morocco, and would deeply stir the feelings of the public.

I had hoped that further hostilities could have been avoided, and that gradually both the Moorish Government and the public would have acquiesced silently in the occupation of the debatable territory in the Tuat district. I have every reason to believe that this hope was well founded. But if these last reports are true, the forebodings of the Grand Vizier and others may be realized, and an important district of Morocco proper may eventually be occupied by French forces.

The report that the Moorish officials at Tafilet are passively regarding the hostile preparations of the tribes, without making an effort to restrain the agitation, would, if true, show that they have no control over the latter, and would furnish a pretext for the establishment of a more efficient Government in those districts.

Moreover, these events would occur when a serious crisis is impending at the centre of Government, which in itself contains elements of danger. I doubt if this country could sustain internal and external shocks of such gravity.

I will endeavour to ascertain whether any news corroborating these Tafilet reports have been received by the Court, and, if your Lordship sees no objection, I should propose to inform my German and Italian colleagues of what has reached me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 106.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *Madrid, May* 19, 1900.

YESTERDAY I received Sir A. Nicolson's telegram to your Lordship, announcing the death of the Grand Vizier of Morocco.

Later, when calling on the Italian Ambassador, his Excellency told me, that as the event had been long anticipated he did not think it would now produce any immediate disturbance. So long as the Exhibition lasted he did not anticipate any aggressive movement on the part of France. He considered that the French Government had acted on various occasions with great correctness, and it was plain they did not wish, at all events at present, to give serious umbrage to other Powers. He was in great hopes that the war in Africa would be concluded before the close of the Exhibition, as he thought that its termination would have considerable effect on the attitude of France, especially if M. Delcassé left office.

This language by Count Collobiano was very satisfactory as concerns any possible initiative on the part of France, but should the Moors commence attacks on the French they will necessarily be resisted, and, of course, no one can foresee the consequences of hostilities when they have once broken out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 23, 1900.

INFORMATION has reached me that strict orders have been sent by the Sultan to the Tafilet tribes that they are to make no hostile movements against the French.

The state of the capital and provinces is quiet at present, though there is considerable discontent at Court in certain circles at the members of the Grand Vizier's party receiving all the recent appointments. It is hoped, however, that the Sultan will suppress any trouble by asserting his authority.

No. 108.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 24, 1899.

Mr. Hedderwick,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have any understanding with France in respect of Morocco; and, if not, whether, in view of the recent movements of French troops on the frontiers of Morocco, Her Majesty's Government are taking any steps to safeguard British interests in that country.

Answer.

Her Majesty's Government have no separate understanding with France in respect of Morocco, but have received assurances at different periods of the desire of the French Government to maintain the *status quo*.

Her Majesty's Government have no reason to think that British interests in that country are at present threatened, but will be ready to take adequate measures for protecting them if necessity should arise.

No. 109.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 14, 1900.

ACCORDING to further information which has reached Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez from Tafilet, it would appear that the French forces are about three days' march from that district, and that the tribes are making active preparations to attack them. Natives of Tafilet who have settled at Fez are now returning to their original homes, having received notice from their relatives that unless they come back to take part in the approaching campaign their lands and goods will be confiscated. Merchants at Fez have received advices from their agents at Tafilet not to forward any more goods till further notice, and trade between the two places is practically at a standstill.

I have also received information from Morocco city generally coroborating the news which has reached me from Fez: and stating that the Chiefs who had been called up to the capital by the Grand Vizier are now rapidly departing for Tafilet.

All these reports point to an approaching outbreak of active hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1900.

THE French Minister, during a general conversation to-day on Moorish affairs, gave me an opportunity of inquiring of him whether he had received any news from the Tuat direction; and he replied that all was quiet in the Tuat oases, but that there appeared to be considerable excitement among the tribes round Tafilet. They appeared to fear, M. Révoil said, that French troops were meditating an occupation of that district, a project which was far from the minds of his Government. I said that I had also heard of some stir among the Tafilet tribes, and I asked him whether it would not be possible to calm their fears, which were doubtless as baseless as he had stated. M. Révoil inquired in what manner this could be done, and I suggested that possibly an assurance on his part that no encroachment on Tafilet was contemplated would have a reassuring effect.

M. Révoil said that, so far as he could see, little credit would now be attached to such an assurance. If the policy and action of France during the past fifty years were not in themselves sufficient evidence of the desire of the French Government to respect the integrity of Morocco, verbal assurances would have little weight. He was, he said, quite aware of the position Tafilet held in the eyes of the Moorish people, and of its connection with the present dynasty, though curiously enough the authority of the Moorish Government was not much respected even in that centre. Still any agitation was to be regretted, and he trusted it would not spread. The French policy was loyal and open; and the *status quo* in Morocco was a subject of solicitude to his Government. There was, he repeated, no intention of disturbing it.

I did not pursue the question, as it arose quite accidentally; and I did not wish M. Révoil to imagine that I was, in any way, seeking to discuss the matter, but his observations may be of interest at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 111.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 18, 1900.

I RECEIVED early this morning news from the Court, informing me that the Grand Vizier died on the morning of the 13th instant. The letter from Kaid Maclean, which had been dispatched immediately on the death of his Excellency, merely informed me of the fact, and added that the capital was in a somewhat excited state, but that he did not think there would be serious trouble.

The immediate future depends entirely on the attitude which the Sultan may assume. If His Majesty acts with promptitude and energy and appoints without delay a strong man as Grand Vizier, it is possible that the change of Government may be effected without causing serious disturbances, But even those who are most sanguine are agreed that if the Sultan wavers and hesitates, a dangerous situation will arise. I shall, doubtless, shortly receive fuller information from the capital, which will enable a clearer insight to be had into the future.

It is not, perhaps, the moment to review the administration and policy of the late Grand Vizier, and I would prefer to limit myself to recording that he was always anxious to maintain friendly relations with Her Majesty's Government and this Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 112.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 18, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Spanish Minister was received in public audience by the Sultan on the 7th instant, to present his letters of credence. The Chief Secretary of the Grand Vizier represented the latter on the occasion.

M. de Ojeda had been ten days at Morocco city before he was granted the audience, and it was only on his announcing that he would return immediately to the coast that his reception was hastily prepared.

I feel sure that there was no intention of showing any discourtesy to M. de Ojeda, and that the unusual delay in granting an audience was merely due to the disorganization resulting from the serious illness of the Grand Vizier.

M. de Ojeda has also complained that since the public audience he has been completely ignored; that no one has paid him a visit, and that he has not been granted the customary private audience of the Sultan.

It is doubtless exceedingly inconvenient to M. de Ojeda being prevented from entering on the business of his mission, but he has unfortunately arrived at Morocco city during a serious crisis, and at a moment when there is practically no Government. It might be prudent in these circumstances to exercise a little patience and to make allowances for the difficult position of the Sultan.

M. de Ojeda told my informant that he intended to ask the Moorish Government to grant a plot of ground at Morocco city and also at Fez whereon to build a Legation, as he found it impossible to transact business from Tangier. I do not believe that the Spanish Minister is serious in this proposal. It is merely a threat by which M. de Ojeda hopes to procure the recognition of a Spanish unofficial Agent at Court. I reported on this matter in my despatch No. 20 of the 18th February, 1899; and I do not anticipate that M. de Ojeda will press the question with much earnestness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

A. N.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 26, 1900.*

THE French Minister broached the question of the Tafilet tribes spontaneously to me yesterday, and he appeared to be somewhat anxious about their attitude.

He repeated the assurances which he had already made as to the intentions of the French.

Should your Lordship have no objection I might inform the French Minister that strict orders have been sent by the Sultan to the Tafilet tribes to abstain from hostilities, and it might be a favourable opportunity to inform His Majesty privately that I believe the French have no intentions against the Tafilet districts, and that if he can keep the tribes quiet the French will make no encroachments.

No. 114.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 21, 1900.*

I HAVE received information from the Court to the effect that as soon as the death of the late Grand Vizier had occurred, the Sultan called to the Palace all the Ministers and provincial Governors who happened to be at the capital, as well as the leading men in the Government. His Majesty informed them that he had just lost a great friend in whom he had reposed the most absolute confidence, and whom he had permitted to represent him before the country. Now that this personage had been taken away, he wished his functionaries to understand that, in future, none would stand between the Throne and the people; and in confirming them in their several positions, he expected them always to apply direct to him for advice and assistance. His Majesty stated that he would appoint Ministers to carry on the Departmental business; but that all must remember that he alone was Sultan.

His Majesty then named Hadj Mokhtar, a cousin of the late Grand Vizier, as Acting Vizier, and intrusted Abdel Kerim ben Sliman, formerly one of the Grand Vizier's Secretaries, provisionally with the conduct of Foreign Affairs. To the important Court post of "Hajib," one of the principal functionaries, His Majesty named Cid Hassen, a brother of the late Vizier; and also appointed Cid Hammo, another former Secretary of the Vizier, to assist Cid Hassen in his functions. The son of the late Master of Ceremonies was named to succeed his father, who had recently died, and the Under-Secretary of War, Gabbas, was confirmed in his post. The Ministry of War has not, so far as I have been informed, been filled up as yet.

The new Vizier is not much known; and I have no information as to his character and abilities. The new Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs is an enlightened and intelligent man, and will, I hope, prove a success.

The action of the Sultan, prompt and vigorous, has rather surprised the public and augurs well for the future. His Address, which is to be circulated throughout the country, made a good impression, and the excitement which had been shown in the capital calmed down rapidly. So far as I have yet heard, the news of the Grand Vizier's death has been received hitherto with calmness in the provinces, and as people are busily engaged in harvesting operations, the new Government will be free to take all precautionary measures in good time.

It is yet too early to state positively that all danger of disturbance has passed away; but the assumption by the Sultan of real authority and power is in favour of tranquillity being maintained.

I may add that His Majesty attended the funeral of the Grand Vizier and was much affected during the ceremony, and he daily visits the tomb of his late Minister. It is said that the Grand Vizier left all his property and money to the Sultan to be disposed of as His Majesty might consider best. It is also believed that the late Grand Vizier had left very full suggestions as to the course which it would be best for His Majesty to take in the event of his death and, probably, the Sultan has followed

these recommendations. There is no doubt that the late Grand Vizier had feelings of real affection towards his youthful master, whose preceptor he had been during his boyhood and also the chief and sole Minister since His Majesty's accession to the throne. These feelings were evidently cordially reciprocated by the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 22, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 73 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that Kaid M'hedi, the Chief of the great Rahamnah tribe, has been appointed Minister of War. Kaid M'hedi is a comparatively young man and was a devoted adherent of the late Grand Vizier. He has strong feelings of friendship for England.

Hadj Mokhtar has been confirmed as Grand Vizier. I am informed that the Sultan has impressed on all the provincial Governors that they are to treat the people fairly and justly, and that he will not admit any oppression.

The knowledge that the Sultan has taken the Government of the country into his own hands has created general satisfaction, and I am told that on returning to his Palace from a recent visit to the late Vizier's tomb he received a great ovation from the public in the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 116.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received a report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that a collision took place between the Tafilet tribes and the French post near there, on the Wad Ghir, which is near there, about the 16th instant. Though the casualties were trifling on both sides, it is reported that the French have asked for reinforcements, and it is anticipated that there will be further conflicts.

The news had been received by the Moorish authorities at Fez by special courier, but Mr. Macleod had not had sufficient time to test the accuracy of the report.

No. 117.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 28, 1900.*

THE Spanish Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office to-day, and stated that he had been instructed by his Government to express the hope that no credence was attached in this country to the reports published in the English press and reproduced in the Spanish newspapers as to the conclusion between Spain and France of a Secret Agreement with regard to Morocco.

M. Jover y Tovar said that there was not a word of truth in these rumours. The Spanish Government wish to do everything that is possible to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco, and they trust that the desire is shared by all the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 29, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 14:

A message has reached me to day from the Sultan, who expresses some anxiety about the designs which the French may have on Tafilelt, and asks me for advice which would help him to quiet the tribes. The Sultan fears that, in the event of a French advance, he will be unable to restrain the tribes, and should this occur, in his opinion, it would be impossible to prevent a general rising to help the tribes.

I think that His Majesty will be satisfied with what your Lordship has authorized me to say in your telegram No. 15, and I will cause the information to be conveyed to him.

No. 119.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1900.

WITH reference to your private letter of the 18th instant, I request that, if the Sultan's Representative at Tangier or the new Grand Vizier should make any communication to you, you will report by telegraph the nature of such communication.

No. 120.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1900.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 26 of the 26th instant, I authorize you to let the Sultan know privately that the French will, in your opinion, not encroach if he keeps the tribes quiet, and you should tell the French Minister that strict orders have, according to your information, been sent by the Sultan to the tribes to keep quiet.

No. 121.

Lord Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 85. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, May* 30, 1900.

M. VISCONTI-VENOSTA spoke to me this afternoon respecting the proceedings of the French in Morocco. He believed, he said, that there was no present intention on the part of the French Government to go beyond the occupation of the oases, and so long as they confined their operations to the interior of the country he did not consider that any interference on the part of Italy was called for. The same view was, he believed, held by Her Majesty's Government and the German Government. If, on the other hand, there was any disturbance of the *status quo* on the coast of Morocco, an European question would at once be raised.

His Excellency added that he did not believe that the French Government had any intention of interfering with Tripoli at present, but that the Tripolitan question was a very important one for Italy, and that she could not tolerate any change in the existing state of things in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CURRIE.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 25, 1900.

I HAVE been informed that the French military Mission at Morocco city has, during the past few months, been actively occupied in surveying and mapping the country in the neighbourhood of the capital, and also from Mazagan to Mogador. Captain Lanas, a member of the Mission, is shortly leaving the capital to survey the country between Mogador and Ajadiv.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 25, 1900.

I UNDERSTAND from information which I have received from the Court that the Sultan has dispatched from Morocco city several Shereefs to Tafilet with instructions to convey to the tribes there His Majesty's orders that they are to undertake no hostile movements against the French troops, and that if they have commenced hostilities, to desist at once. The Shereefs were also instructed to take means of communicating the above orders to the Commandant of the French troops.

I have during the last few days received no news from the Tafilet district, nor have I learnt whether the caravan roads between Fez and Tafilet have been reopened to traffic. My informant at the Court states that the Moorish Government would feel its hands much strengthened if it were in a position to assure the tribes that the French forces contemplated no aggression on the Tafilet district. Without such assurances it is considered doubtful whether the tribes will pay much heed to the orders of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 26, 1900.

ON my paying a visit to the French Minister yesterday to thank him for his congratulations on the previous day on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, he asked me if I had received any further news from Tafilet. I replied in the negative, and M. Révoil said that he trusted that the tribes would not carry out their alleged intention of making hostile movement against the French posts. If the latter were attacked they would repel the assault, but would not pursue the assailants. He then continued to reiterate his assurances that there was no intention or desire on the part of the Government to encroach on Tafilet or Moorish territory, but that he had hoped that the action of the French during the past fifty-five years was a sufficient proof of their wish to loyally observe the Treaty of 1845, and not to disturb the *status quo* in Morocco.

He added that though the Sultan's authority was not firmly established in Tafilet, still he thought it would have an excellent effect there if the Court were now to proceed to Fez. It had been for five years or more at Morocco city, and its transfer to Fez would enable it to exercise a better control over the unruly tribes at Tafilet.

I agreed with him on this point, and said that I thought it would be well if the Sultan, now he had taken the Government of the country into his own hands, were to show himself to the people. The disadvantage was that a Royal progress in Morocco was a very costly pleasure to the inhabitants.

I did not mention to M. Révoil the news that I had received as to the Sultan having ordered the Tafilet tribes to obstain from hostilities, but, if I receive your Lordship's permission, I think it would be well to do so. It would also calm the anxiety of the Sultan, and enable him possibly to tranquillize the Tafilet tribes if I were permitted to inform His Majesty privately that there appears to be no desire whatever on the part of the French authorities to encroach on Tafilet or undoubted Moorish territory, and that if the tribes do not deliberately provoke an attack no trouble should ensue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 125.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 28, 1900.

I HAVE received a letter from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting that about the 16th instant a collision occurred between the Moorish tribes and the French post on the Wad Ghir near Tafilet. The casualties were trifling, amounting only to twelve killed and wounded on both sides; but it is said that the French have asked for reinforcements, and it is feared that further conflicts will ensue. Mr. Macleod heard the news, which was brought by a special courier from a high Moorish functionary at Fez, who had received it from the Viceroy of that town. Mr. Macleod had not had time to verify or test the report, but he seems to consider it as authentic, while giving it under reserve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 126.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 29, 1900.

I AM informed that the Sultan has given orders that an inquiry should be made into the cases of all individuals who are detained in prison at Morocco city, and that all who are not kept in confinement for offences of a serious nature should be immediately released. A great number, I am told, have already been set free.

This measure is a humane one, and very creditable to His Majesty, and I would suggest that I should take an opportunity of privately conveying to His Majesty that it would be of advantage if this measure were extended to all the prisons in Morocco. I do not think that I should be exaggerating in saying that at least 50 per cent. of those confined in Moorish prisons are perfectly innocent individuals. It would, moreover, be desirable to encourage His Majesty in continuing a policy which is not only just, but which will go far towards mitigating the grave abuses of Moorish administration, and also consolidate His Majesty's position and authority by evoking the gratitude of the people, and by showing them that he is solicitous that they should be treated with justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 30, 1900.

I RECEIVED yesterday, through a private channel, a message from the Sultan, expressing his anxiety that the French forces should advance into Tafilet, and stating that he had done his best to control the tribes and to prevent them from making any hostile

movements, but that he feared, should the French encroach further, that the tribes would attack them in defence of their homes. His Majesty was desirous of obtaining from me my opinion on the situation, and any suggestion which I thought would assist him in his difficult position. It was also intimated to me that if the Tafilet tribes were to enter into hostilities with those whom they regard as foreign invaders, that the whole country, or, as it was put to me, "any man who could carry a gun," would flock to their assistance.

There is no doubt that the outbreak of serious hostilities between the French troops and the Tafilet tribes would create considerable effervescence in the country; but I question whether the national or even the religious feeling is so strong as to unite in one movement the various clans of Morocco. Be that as it may, it is unquestionable that a grave situation would arise; there would either be the above-mentioned general rising to resist the invader, or the people would consider that the Government was on the brink of its downfall, and each tribe and individual would do what he thought right in his own eyes.

I will communicate to the Sultan the private message which your Lordship was good enough to authorize in your telegram No. 15, and I think that an assurance that the French authorities have, in the opinion of this Legation, no desire to disturb the tribes, if the latter will but remain quiet, will go far to reassure His Majesty, and enable him to convey conciliatory and pacifying advice to the Tafilet inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 30, 1900.

I HAD an interview this afternoon with the French Minister on some matters connected with the Sanitary Council, and at the close M. Révoil mentioned that news which he had received that morning from Fez reported that all was quiet there, and made no allusion to Tafilet.

I told M. Révoil that I had heard that the Sultan had sent strict orders to the Tafilet tribes to keep quiet, which showed that His Majesty wished to act loyally.

M. Révoil said that he had similar information, and was gratified that His Majesty had acted so promptly. He added that he had given the Moorish Government to understand (he did not specify in what form) that if the tribes attacked the French posts, the latter would act without pity ("nous serons impitoyables"). This phrase, which M. Révoil employed on two occasions, was stronger than the action he had on a previous occasion indicated to me, when he had said that if the French posts were attacked, they would simply repulse their assailants, and not advance.

I expressed hopes that the tribes would obey the Sultan's orders, a hope which M. Révoil re-echoed. He said he had asked his Ministry to endeavour to modify the tone of the French press, or that portion of it with which it had relations, on the question of Tafilet, as it would be unfortunate if public opinion were unnecessarily excited on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 129.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 263.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, forwarding further extracts from the military press respecting the situation in Southern Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT

Inclosure 1 in No. 129.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 37.)

Paris, June 6, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, some further extract from news which has lately appeared in the military press concerning the situation in South Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 129.

Extracts from the French Military Press.

AN Algiers telegram, dated the 1st June, announces that the Gourara oasis is now completely taken possession of without bloodshed.

The principal Ksours who have given their submission to Colonel Menestrel are Tabelkosa, Fatis, Elhadj, Gullman, and Timimoum; also Oulad-Saïd, where from its commanding position resistance might have been expected.

The state of health is excellent; water is good and plentiful, but the troops will have to be fed by convoys until the next harvest.

M. Morinaud, the Deputy for Constantine, has brought forward a "Projet" urging the Government to complete at once the Biskra–Ouargla Railway, which would assure communication for 700 kilom. from the coast and the supply service to Insalah.

A propos of the situation at Igli, the "France Militaire" talks to-day (6th June) as follows:—

Igli is nearly at the apex of an isosceles triangle, of which the two other angles are at Figuig and Tafilet. Both Tafilet and Figuig comprise a group of important oases.

From Djenien-bou-Rezg to Igli it is about 263 kilom. by the road taken by Bertrand.

As Djenien-bou-Rezg, the terminus of the Oran Railway, is about 60 kilom. north-east of Figuig; the distance from Figuig to Igli is about 230 kilom., and it is about the same between Tafilet and Igli.

The line of penetration from Figuig to Igli is marked out by the Wady Sousfana as far as its junction with the Wady Guir, which comes from the high mountains of Morocco, and which crosses about half-way the route from Figuig to Tafilet.

The two valleys unite at Igli to form the course of the Wady Souara, traversed by Gerard Rholfs in 1864.

All their communications being interrupted, the passage of caravans being opposed by our occupation of Igli (where we separate the Morocco tribes from our enemies, still hostile after their reverse at In Rhar), it is evident that Igli is the objective for the Morocco forces, either for capture direct of the place or for operations directed against our food convoys.

For use, under these circumstances, we have available, either there or handy in the Province of Oran, the following forces:—

Four battalions of the 2nd Zouaves.
Six battalions of the 2nd Algerian Tirailleurs.
One battalion of the 1st Light African Infantry.
Six battalions of the 1st and 2nd Foreign Legion Regiments.
Eight squadrons of the 2nd and 6th Chasseurs d'Afrique.
Four squadrons of the 2nd Spahis Regiment.
Several numerous Goums.
Three batteries: the 13th, 15th, and 16th of the 12th Artillery Regiment.
The 4th Company of the 19th Engineer Battalion.
The 11th, 12th, and 13th Companies of the 15th Train Squadron.
Several convoys of camels.
These forces appear sufficient to deal with and repress all aggression.

No. 130.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 63.)

Foreign Office, June 8, 1900.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 80 of the 29th ultimo, reporting that the Sultan has ordered that an inquiry should be held into the cases of all individuals who are detained in prison at Morocco city, and that all who are in confinement for offences not of a serious nature should immediately be released.

I approve the suggestion that you should take an opportunity of privately conveying to His Majesty that the measure might with advantage be extended to all prisons in Morocco, and I request that you will at the same time express to the Sultan the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have heard of the orders issued by him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 89. Secret and Confidential.)

Madrid, June 9, 1900.

My Lord,

LAST night I dined with a very small party at the Russian Embassy.

After dinner, M. Schevitsch, speaking to me aside, inquired, with some anxiety, whether there was a Secret Agreement between Her Majesty's Government and France respecting Morocco.

France, following the lead and advice of Russia, had abstained from any action that could embarrass England during the Boer war. But it was now plain that M. Waldeck-Rousseau, M. Delcassé, and their colleagues had adopted an English policy. The explanation which, as I gathered, he had received, was that England and France had come to an agreement whereby France would refrain from raising any question affecting Egypt if England, on her part, would assent to certain proceedings on the part of France in Morocco. The nature of these he did not state.

I replied that I had heard of nothing of the kind, and that I had no reason to believe that the report was true. According to my information, Her Majesty's Government favoured the continuance of the *status quo* in Morocco.

His Excellency pointed out to me that the conduct of Russia towards England had been most correct. In the affair of Fashoda she had given peaceful counsels to France, and adopted the same course on the outbreak of the African war, during which she had done nothing to embarrass England. With her large forces in Central Asia she might have taken Herat and caused a disturbance in Afghanistan.

But nothing of this kind had occurred; 5,000 men only had been sent to Kushk as part of a mobilization scheme which affected every province of the Empire. On the other hand, England was always unfriendly to the progress of Russia, and treated her in a jingo spirit; she was joining Germany in her hostility, and now she was endeavouring to alienate France.

In fact, he had seen it stated lately, but only in the newspapers, that the railway recently conceded to Germany, leading to the Persian Gulf, was to be carried out by an Anglo-France-German Company, evidently intended to exclude Russia and her commerce from participation in the advantages of the new line.

I was enabled to say, with perfect truth, that I had not heard of this combination. I felt that there were many points on which I might have retorted, but being a guest in his house, and his tone, though excited, being very friendly, I said as little as I could.

I merely suggested that his language confirmed my previous view that a friendly understanding between Great Britain and Russia was much to be desired, but from all I had seen the latter country was not prepared to give any but a *non possumus* answer to proposals which did not give up to her without abatement all she desired.

M. Schevitsch declared that this was not the case, and, if such a thing were possible, Russia would be glad to submit to a third party her own policy if England would take a similar course, and both were to accept such an apportionment as the arbitrator should decide.

I replied that a friendly discussion and compromise was perfectly feasible without the intervention of anyone else.

His Excellency then went on to say that neither statesmen nor the public in Great Britain understood what was really public opinion in Russia. This he attributed to the ignorance prevailing everywhere of the Russian language. He said that if we could only read the Russian press of every colour (and he enumerated several newspapers) it would be found that Russian public opinion was not based on hostility to England. On the contrary, all parties would be glad of an understanding, but England was kept in the dark from not knowing the friendly spirit which really existed in all classes in Russia.

His Excellency had seen that Her Majesty's Government were appointing Commercial Agents to different parts of the world. It would be very desirable for them to appoint someone to make a continuous study and report of the Russian newspaper press.

From the whole tone of M. Schevitsch's conversation I gather that not only he himself but his Government feel very anxious at the conduct of France as regards Morocco and generally towards England. This feeling may, perhaps, be increased by incidents elsewhere, perhaps in China, of which I have no knowledge.

He spoke with some warmth of the friendly attitude adopted by the French Government towards England, and I have little doubt that his frequent conferences with Señor Silvela are the consequence of his suspicions as to French action and that of Her Majesty's Government in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 4, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that subsequent inquiries which he has made lead him to believe that the skirmish which occurred on the Wad Ghir was between people from Tuat and the French troops, and that the Tafilelt tribes were not concerned in the affair.

There is still considerable excitement in the country as to French movements, and the British Consular Agent at Alcazar reports that some of the mountain tribes are becoming agitated and restless.

Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida also reports that according to his information, "an anti-Christian feeling, caused by French action near the frontier of Morocco, is perceptibly spreading and growing."

It is to be hoped the Sultan will succeed in keeping the agitation within bounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 133.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 5, 1900.

THE French Minister told me this afternoon that his last news from Tafilelt was fairly satisfactory; he would not go so far as to say that all danger of a collision had passed by, in fact he thought it extremely probable that the tribes would attempt some hostile movement; but he considered this could be easily localized, and would not spread to any extent. He asked me if I thought the Moorish authorities were encouraging the agitation among the tribes.

I told M. Révoil that I did not think so; and that I was convinced that the Sultan was earnestly and sincerely desirous that tranquillity should be maintained.

M. Révoil said that he was of the same opinion; and that he thought His Majesty should by now be reassured as to French intentions. I replied that I hoped he was, and that the tribes would follow His Majesty's orders to keep quiet.

M. Révoil hinted that possibly Bu Amama, an important Chief, might give trouble, and made some allusion to the probability of it being necessary to remove that personage away from the frontier. M. Révoil, however, then changed the subject, and I was unable to gather what he had precisely in his mind.

I may mention that Bu Amama is considered at the Court to be of doubtful loyalty to the Sultan, and to be in the pay of the French; but I have not been able to ascertain whether there are substantial grounds for this suspicion, and M. Révoil's remarks would hardly tend to confirm it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 5, 1900.

THE French Minister informed me to-day that he had received news from Morocco city, that the Sultan had sent his elder brother, Muley Mohammed, to Mequinez where he would be set at liberty; and he inquired whether I had received similar information. I told M. Révoil that I had heard the Sultan was thinking of setting his brother at liberty, but that I had not been informed that the latter had actually left the capital for the purpose of being freed. A rumour had reached me lately from Dar-al-Baida that Muley Mohammed had passed by the neighbourhood of that town accompanied by a very small retinue; but no further confirmation had been received by me.

M. Révoil said it would be good policy on the part of the Sultan to set his brother at liberty. I agreed with this view on the condition that Muley Mohammed remained quiet and did not intrigue against his sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 135.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 14, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 28, a good impression has been caused at Court by my private message, and, according to my information, the Moorish Government is convinced that unless the French troops attack first, the tribes will make no move. The French Minister informed me yesterday, of his own accord, that this will not happen.

The last report to me from Fez states that there is no further trouble at Tafilelt, and I hope that now the state of affairs will become calm.

No. 136.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 8, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a Circular which the Sultan's Deputy has addressed to the Diplomatic Body here, announcing that the Sultan has appointed him to be the intermediary and channel of communication in all matters between the Legations and the Moorish Government.

If Cid Torres is invested with sufficient powers to settle the less important questions, and if the provincial authorities have received orders to execute the instructions which Cid Torres gives them, there would be some advantages in the new course of procedure. But if it is merely intended that Cid Torres should be the channel through which communications with the Moorish Government should pass, further delays will be introduced into the present system of transacting business, which is already sufficiently dilatory. Cid Torres has, moreover, at present, no powers at all, and the provincial authorities pay little heed to any communication which he may make to them.

The Diplomatic Body has decided to ask the Moorish Government for some explanations as to the scope of the powers which it is proposed to intrust to Cid Torres, and also as to some other points which are left somewhat obscure in the Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Cid Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(Circular.)
(After compliments.) *June* 1, 1900.

YOUR Excellency knows that the late Vizier, Cid Hamed-ben-Musa, was appointed at the Shereefian Court to attend to Home and Foreign Affairs; and when God, whose name be exalted, decreed his death, His Shereefian Majesty decided to appoint us as an intermediary for all foreign affairs, and that correspondence with your Excellency in matters concerning you and your merchants shall be confined to us, in the manner it was conducted in the first place with the late Deputy, Cid Mohammed Bargash, so that in all such matters that may arise you will write to us about them, and we will write thereon to His Majesty, the exalted by God, who will reply to us upon them as may be necessary, and we will reply to you in accordance therewith, as this will be advantageous to both sides.

Our Lord has commanded me to inform you of this, that you may be aware of it, and that henceforth you may act in conformity therewith, by the power and strength of God.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 137.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 8, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the political situation in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, June* 4, 1900.

IN a private letter received this morning from Mr Vice-Consul Hunot,* he informs me that he learns from native sources that the people on the other side of the Atlas have proclaimed a "Jehad," and also that there has been further sanguinary fighting with the French.

I am able to confirm my report to you that Muley Mohammed has passed through this district on his way to Mequinez or Fez, and that His Highness was a prisoner.†

A provincial Governor who has returned from the Court states that on being summoned to Marrakesh after the Vizier's death, all the Kaïds were well received by the Sultan personally on the same day as they arrived, instead of being kept waiting for several days, as is customary.

The Sultan informed them that he intended taking all affairs of State into his own hands, and that they were to return to their respective provinces at once, and come back again at the next feast with as many men as possible to play powder.

* Vice-Consul at Saffee (Safi).

† Kaïd Maclean, on contrary, reports that Sultan has released his brother, Muley Mohammed, treating him most kindly, and asked him whether he would prefer to remain at Morocco city, or go to Mequinez. Muley Mohammed decided for the latter, and was sent off with a small retinue and escort. (See Sir A. Nicolson's letter of June 9.)—M. G.

This means that His Majesty intends to revive the pomp attending ceremonies which during the late Grand Vizier's régime had been allowed to almost disappear.

It is also said that a Governor of the Kasbah of Marrakesh has been imprisoned, as well as several other officials.

One Governor, on his return to his province, called before him the Sheikhs and chief men of the tribe, and informed them that the Sultan was now ruling by himself, and had instructed him to treat the people with consideration, "as there might be a necessity to call upon them in an affair with a Christian nation."

The Arabic expression conveys the meaning that the tribes might be called upon to combat a difference with a Christian nation, and they were to be ready.

I am careful to report to you everything which I hear which is reliable. There are many rumours afloat which are quite the reverse from being reliable.

A serious symptom is that Moors generally given to talk and air their opinions frankly are now very reserved, and give information reluctantly, almost, it seems to me, as if they were committing a "sin;" yet many of these men are entirely dependent on Europeans for their living and general well-being.

In the cases of some of them their duty is to obtain and give intelligence, and until lately they have performed this duty willingly.

I do not attach undue importance to these data; I merely wish to chronicle them for your information.

Personally, I do not think that any of the European Colonies on the coast of Morocco would be in any serious danger supposing that, which is very unlikely, a general "Jehad" were proclaimed.

Only isolated unpleasant incidents might arise. A simple European traveller might be killed, or a solitary Christian in a back street might be a victim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 138.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 8, 1900.

FROM information which I have received from the Court, it would appear that though the Sultan has taken the direction of affairs in his own hands, and is acting with vigour and good sense, there is considerable discontent in Court circles owing to the principal posts in the Administration having been distributed among members of the late Vizier's party. There seems to be a specially strong and growing opposition to the new Minister of War, the functionary in whom the Sultan reposes the greatest confidence. The Grand Vizier is reported to me as not being equal to the situation. He has, however, little influence with the Sultan, and his powers are strictly limited. This perhaps is fortunate, as he is described to me as being fanatical and exceedingly avaricious; and although a learned Arabic scholar, he is ignorant of European affairs, and opposed to the introduction of reforms in this country.

I think that as the Sultan gains experience and confidence in himself, he is likely to initiate a more liberal policy than has hitherto prevailed, and he certainly has shown a disposition to modify some of the great abuses in the Administration. I do not consider that the intrigues which are busy at present at the Court are likely to cause any serious difficulty, as there is no combination among the malcontents, and with the army loyal and faithful to the Throne, the Sultan could crush any movement against the present order of things. It seems also clear that the population generally is much gratified at the Sultan having assumed power, and his popularity in the country is increasing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 139.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which, as Acting Doyen, I have addressed to the Sultan relative to the course which the Moorish Government desires the foreign Legations to pursue in respect to their several affairs. I should have preferred that the note should have been addressed to the Grand Vizier, but my colleagues were of opinion that as this functionary has not yet officially notified his assumption of office, it would be more correct to write to the Sultan direct. I also think that the refusal to accept the proposed procedure unless certain conditions are fulfilled is a little peremptory; and my original draft did not go so far. I believe that the Sultan has sent orders to the local authorities in the sense desired; but it is as well to have this assurance in writing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Note from Diplomatic Body at Tangier to the Sultan.

(Après compliments.) *Tanger, le* 11 *Juin*, 1900.

LE Corps Diplomatique vient de recevoir de Hadj Mohammed-ben-el-Aibi Torres une Circulaire qui leur annonce que votre Majesté a daigné le nommer comme intermédiaire entre les Légations étrangères et le Maghzen, comme cela se faisait dans le temps de Cid Mohammed Bargash. Cid Torres d'ailleurs nous fait savoir qu'il sera prêt à recevoir toutes communications des Légations et de les transmettre au Maghzen; et qu'il nous communiquera ensuite les réponses qui lui seront adressées de la part du Gouvernement Marocain.

Je suis chargé par mes collègnes d'exprimer leur désir d'adopter toute procédure qui pourrait faciliter et activer la marche des affaires; et que pour atteindre ce but nous serions tous toujours heureux de profiter de la coopération d'un fonctionnaire aussi expérimenté et aussi zélé que le Délégué de votre Majesté à Tangier.

Le Corps Diplomatique, cependant, pense que la Circulaire de Cid Torres laisse de côté certains points d'une importance capitale, et sur lesquels il est bien à désirer qu'une entente soit établie avant que la procédure indiquée dans la Circulaire puisse être acceptée.

Le Corps Diplomatique voudrait savoir :—

1. Si Cid Torres sera muni d'une autorité suffisante pour le permettre de faire les enquêtes nécessaires dans les réclamations et les autres affaires qui leur seront soumises ?

2. Après que Cid Torres a adressé son rapport sur la question en litige au Maghzen et a reçu la réponse de ce dernier, aura-t-il les pouvoirs nécessaires pour le permettre d'arriver à un réglement avec la Légation intéressée sans être obligé d'en référer de nouveau au Gouvernement Chériffien ?

3. Si les instructions ont été envoyées aux Kaids et aux Oomana partout dans le Maroc de donner suite sans délais et sans hésitations, aux ordres qu'ils pourraient recevoir de Cid Torres ? et

4. Si Cid Torres sera mis en mesure de régler sans en référer au Maghzen les affaires de petite importance qui surgissent tous les jours ?

En soumettant avec tout respect à votre Majesté ce qui précède je serais reconnaissant d'être mis à même de communiquer à mes collègues des assurances satisfaisantes sur les points que j'ai eu l'honneur d'indiquer.

No. 140.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 18, 1900.

Mr. Hazell,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the present condition of Morocco as regards the oppression of the Moors by their Government, which it is alleged is such that the leading and intelligent classes of Morocco would welcome some form of European authority that would secure justice to the inhabitants:

And, whether the time has come when Her Majesty's Government, as representing the country possessing the largest trade interest in Morocco, would consider the advisability of calling a Conference of the European Powers with a view to the establishment of some concerted European influence over the Moorish Government, in order that the present form of government which prevails, under which open slave markets flourish, may be brought more in conformity with the civilization of the times.

Answer.

No information has been received which would lead to the belief that European authority would be welcomed in Morocco.

The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

The orders to the Governors of coast towns to prevent the public sale of slaves were renewed in 1898 at the request of Her Majesty's Minister, who will make representations to the Moorish Government if it should at any time come to his knowledge that those orders are being neglected.

No. 141.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury —(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 14, 1900.

THE private message which I was authorized to convey to the Sultan, to the effect that, in my opinion, if the Tafilelt tribes remained quiescent the French troops would not encroach on their territory, has caused, I am informed, a satisfactory impression at the Court, though His Majesty has not yet replied to it. The functionary who has charge of foreign affairs at the Court told my informant that the Moorish Government was convinced that the Tafilelt tribes would not move unless attacked; though he added that the French had advanced into the district of Tafilelt at one or two points. He further mentioned that the French Agent at the Court had recently adopted a very friendly tone, and had been expansive in amicable and peaceful assurances.

As my last news from Fez reports no further activity in Tafilelt, it is to be hoped that matters will now calm down, although the French Minister told me yesterday that he doubted if the tribes would willingly return to peaceful avocations without striking one blow, which, however, could be easily parried without leading to further consequences. He considered that the agitation had reached too high a point to permit it to subside suddenly and completely.

He expressed his appreciation of what he termed the calm and correct attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the question. He was gratified that the assurances of the loyalty of the French Government towards the *status quo* had been frankly accepted, and that there had been no desire to search for hidden and malicious motives which did not exist. He also acknowledged the loyalty of the Sultan, and his belief in His Majesty's desire to restrain the tribes.

I told M. Révoil that since I had been in Morocco I had frequently seen clouds threaten a storm, and then suddenly disperse; and I had, therefore, still hopes that the tribes would commit no hostile act, notwithstanding all their talk and agitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 91. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 14, 1900.

I AM informed from the Court that the Spanish Minister has requested the Moorish Government to agree to a regiment of Spanish troops being stationed at Ifni to protect the fishing establishment which should eventually be placed there; and that the Sultan is not at all disposed to accede to this suggestion. The Moorish Government consider that there is nothing in the Treaty which provides for the establishment of a Spanish garrison; and it does not intend to go beyond the strict letter of the Treaty. I am given to understand that if the Spanish Minister insists on this point the Moorish Government will ask to submit it to an European arbitration.

I also gather that the Moorish Government do not regard with favour the project of supplying Ceuta with water from Gibel Musa, as it is considered that the Spanish authorities have some ulterior object in view. I do not know if the proposal has yet been formally put forward by the Spanish Minister, but it is known to form part of his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 14, 1900.

THE Sultan intends to undertake the reorganization of his army and to place it on a more efficient footing. He has commenced with one regiment, under the direct orders of Kaïd Maclean, which His Majesty has directed should be brought up to its full numbers, and should be composed solely of efficient men, who are to be regularly paid, and properly drilled, clothed, and equipped. This measure, it appears, has created consternation among commanding officers, who fear that it will be shortly extended to their regiments, and that the old system, by which pay was drawn for 1,000 men when only 200 or 300 actually existed, will disappear. Some colonels were, I am told, making from 3*l.* to 5*l.* a-day, a large sum in this country, by fictitious muster rolls; and they are consequently alarmed at the prospect of losing these remunerations.

They have petitioned the Grand Vizier against the reforms; but the Minister of War is determined to carry them through, and is supported by the Sultan. It remains to be seen whether His Majesty will be ready to resist the discontent of the superior officers, and insist on his scheme being accepted. The private soldiers are much gratified at the prospect of receiving regular daily pay, which is to amount to 4*d.* a-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 144.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 16, 1900.

THE Consular Body at Mogador has addressed a Report to the Diplomatic Body here, calling attention to the deplorable condition of the prison in that town, which, owing to its insanitary condition and the methods employed in cleansing it, constitutes a real danger to the public health. Moreover, the manner in which the prisoners are herded together, and the great mortality among them, have also induced the foreign Consuls to address their Legations on the subject.

The prison is a former Customs-house warehouse, and has been employed for its present purpose, since the Island of Mogador was evacuated of the prisoners for the reception of pilgrims. The house is capable of containing 350 individuals, and 950 are at present detained there. Since the beginning of last year, 1,950 have entered the prison; and it is said that 1,000 have died within the eighteen months. I am informed that the prisoners are perpetually chained together in gangs of ten men, and if one dies the body is often not removed from the chain for a day or two.

I need not enter into details as to the sanitary condition of the prison, but the report from the Consuls clearly demonstrates that a remedy is urgently required. I am sure that the Sultan will not permit this condition of things to continue, and the Diplomatic Body has requested the Spanish Minister, now at this Court, to unofficially draw His Majesty's attention to the matter.

There is some prospect of the Moorish Government building a proper lazaret in the vicinity of Tangier, and, should this be carried out, the Island of Mogador could again be utilized as a place of detention, and there would then be no difficulty in properly lodging the prisoners in conditions which would not be cruel to them or dangerous to the health of others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 145.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 136. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 21, 1900.

THE Spanish Ambassador, with whom I seldom have occasion to talk politics, spoke to me the other day of the situation in Morocco, which was, he said, very serious and indeed alarming. (It afterwards appeared that M. Agüera was speaking under the impression of a report, since contradicted, of the assassination of the Spanish Minister, M. Ojeda, in Morocco city.)

I asked my colleague whether his anxiety was due to reports reaching his Government of French encroachments on Morocco, and I observed that, as far as I knew, there were no serious reasons for imputing sinister designs to France.

M. Agüera said that although France might have no immediate designs on Moroccan territory a restless attitude on her part had the unfortunate effect of heightening the state of disorder, bordering on anarchy, which existed in Morocco. My colleague then referred to the dangerous internal situation caused by the death of the omnipotent Grand Vizier, and the youth and inexperience of a Sultan who was as yet an unknown quantity. The fact was, he said, that the "question du Maroc" was one that would force itself on the attention of the Powers more speedily even perhaps than the Chinese question, which had found the world unprepared. Now that nearly the entire seaboard of North Africa had come under civilizing influences, it was quite intolerable that there should yet remain, immediately facing Europe and within a few miles of it, the most barbarous and retrograde Government existing in any part of the globe. This was a state of things that the European Powers could not allow to continue much longer.

M. Agüera having held the post of Under-Secretary in the Foreign Department up till his appointment to this Embassy, his remarks have seemed to me worth reporting to your Lordship. I did not think it necessary to inquire of my colleague what solution he would propose of the "question du Maroc."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 146.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 48 A. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1900.

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the recent negotiations between his Government and those of France and Germany with respect to the frontiers of the Spanish possessions in West Africa.

His Excellency said that with Germany there had been no difficulty in settling questions as regards the rights of Spain and of the German Cameroons Settlement, but with France there had been prolonged discussions both as to the frontier of the Spanish territory north of the Congo and of that lying to the north of the French possession of Senegal.

These questions had now been arranged.

It had, however, struck the Spanish Government that during the whole course of the negotiations, whenever the Spanish negotiators alluded to the coast between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador as belonging to Morocco, the French negotiators persistently refused to admit this view, and treated this coast and the districts lying behind it as *res nullius*.

The Spanish Government were themselves quite content to recognize as valid the cession of this territory to Morocco by Her Majesty's Government, embodied in the Agreement of March 13, 1895, but it would be very inconvenient to them that France should establish herself on this piece of coast, and so hold the frontiers both to the north and south of the Spanish possessions.

The Spanish Government thought that it would be desirable in their own interest, but also in the interest of Her Majesty's Government and of Morocco, to guard against this eventuality by ceding to the Sultan of Morocco their claim to Ifni (Santa Cruz la Pequeña) as a fishing station in exchange for this piece of coast. As, however, the Agreement of March 13, 1895, expressly stipulated that the district in question should not be ceded by the Sultan to any other Power without the consent of Her Majesty's Government, the Spanish Government would not attempt to proceed with the exchange unless they were assured that Her Majesty's Government had no objection. In the meanwhile, it was desirable that the matter should be kept very secret.

I said that at first sight the proposal did not seem to me to be one to which Her Majesty's Government need raise objections, but that I should wish to have the opportunity of examining it before giving a definite answer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 16th instant stating that a Report has been received from the Consular Body at Mogador with regard to the deplorable condition of the prison in that town, and that the Diplomatic Representatives at Tangier had requested the Spanish Minister, who was at the Court, to call the attention of the Sultan, unofficially, to the subject.

Your action in the matter, as recorded in that despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 148.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 19, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a note which the Deputy of the Sultan in Tangier has sent to the foreign Legations protesting against the occupation of Tuat and Igli by the Algerian troops. This step on the part of the Moorish Government was unexpected, and is not, in the circumstances, a very wise one.

I agree with my German and the one or two other colleagues with whom I have spoken that the protest is not seriously meant, and is merely intended to satisfy the conscience of the Moorish Government and enable it to state that it laid a protest before the European Powers. Nevertheless, it would have been more prudent, as matters now stand, if no such official communication had been made.

I understand that my colleagues will simply transmit, as I do, the translation of the note to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *June* 18, 1900.

IT is not hidden from your Excellency that the Tuat district has been counted since early times as forming part of this Majhrebin Empire, as is explained in books of history and geography, and that it is under the Sultan of Morocco by conquest, and the exercise of jurisdiction and the appointment of Cadis (Judges), Governors, and Administrators of Sanctuaries, also by the payment by the inhabitants of their taxes, and the arrival of deputations from them conveying their allegiance to His Shereefian Majesty, and their coming at the feasts and festivals, and they preach from their pulpits in the name of the Sultan of Morocco, as do the other inhabitants of this Empire, and other visible proofs which cannot be denied because it has been so for ages; amongst the proofs is the text of the Treaties delimiting the frontiers, drawn up between Morocco and France in the year 1845, A.D., to preserve the frontier between the two countries, and preserve as they were formerly before that nation took possession of Algeria. Then after the arrangement of those boundaries in the year 1848, A.D., the French Government printed an official map placing Tuat in it, within the Moorish Empire. Nevertheless, you know of the entry of Algeria into the boundaries of the said district which has now taken place, and of the slaughter of the Ain Salh people, and that it has established itself there, also what it has done at Igli, which constitutes a breach of the Treaties, and a want of attention to the rights of the neighbour. This became a cause of great trouble in all parts of Morocco, towns, country, and desert. Necessarily the Makhzen cannot keep silent about what this country has committed, and it cannot give up to it one single span of its territory nor any right of its subjects.

This information is not imparted to you until the Makhzen has resorted to all necessary diplomatic means and much correspondence with the Government about this matter, which was fruitless. His Shereefian Majesty has commanded me to write you this, in order that you may lay it before your Government, the exalted, with the object of the right being done and the necessary course followed with this Government about it in a just and equitable manner, as is natural between Governments, especially with those who are neighbours. Truth is followed. Trusting this will receive the attention of your Excellency, the respected, by hastening to inform your Government, the glorious, of the above, and that you will reply to it giving their reply, so that I may bring it to the knowledge of His Shereefian Majesty.

May you rest, &c.,
(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 20, 1900.

INFORMATION has reached me from Fez that the emissaries who were sent by the Sultan to convey His Majesty's orders to the Tafilelt tribes to abstain from hostile movements were ill received by the latter, who announced their intention of not following His Majesty's directions. This information has been partially confirmed from another source. At the same time I am told that the caravan roads between Fez and Tafilelt are open, and that although merchants are cautious in their transactions, still there is not the same interruption of trade as occurs when inter-tribal fighting is in progress.

A well-informed resident of Morocco writes that a "holy war" is not likely to be generally popular, as the high price of barley and food considerably hamper the movement of large bodies. Moreover, the oppression under which the majority of people have suffered, and their extreme poverty, do not encourage them to take up arms in support of their Government. If any hostile movement is made, he considers that it would be limited to a few of the more bellicose tribes who are near the spot and practically independent of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S. *June* 21.—Since writing the above I have received private information from the Court to the effect that the news received by the Moorish Government would lead to the belief that the Tafilelt tribes had listened to the advice which had been given to them and had returned to their homes. The Government information would not be of such recent date as that received from Fez and should also be accepted with caution.

A. N.

No. 150.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 97. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 21, 1900.

KAID MACLEAN informs me privately that the Spanish Minister told him confidentially that the French Government had proposed to that of Spain that the two Governments should come to an arrangement as to the frontier of Morocco in the south, and had suggested that in virtue of this arrangement the coast from Ifni to Cape Bogador should fall to France. M. de Ojeda said that his Government had declined to accede to this proposal, as it did not desire to see France established on a coast-line opposite to the Canaries; and, moreover, it would intercept communication between the Spanish territory south of Cape Bogador and Morocco. His Government, he added, had instructed him to inform the Sultan of this proposal, and to tell His Majesty that Spain would assist him in preventing the French design from being put into execution.

M. de Ojeda also stated that he had informed the Moorish Government that Spain, as well as Great Britain, had recognized that the Sultan's authority extended to Cape Bogador, and that, if His Majesty was unable or disinclined to establish his authority so far south, Spain should have the first claim to any portion of the coast-line which might be abandoned.

M. de Ojeda further said that acting on his own initiative without instructions, he had requested the Sultan to inform the Powers that Spain was in negotiations for some portion of the coast between Ifni and Cape Bogador in exchange for the fishing establishment at Ifni. He had explained to the Sultan that no effect would really be given to such an arrangement, and that it was merely a paper agreement to close the door to French aspirations in that region. M. de Ojeda concluded by giving Kaïd Maclean to understand that the Sultan had fallen in with this proposal, and that he had informed his own Government of his action.

The above report is somewhat a strange one, and there are several points in it which require further elucidation.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 151.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 26, 1900.

THE Italian Minister returned here on the 24th instant from Morocco city, having been absent from Tangier about eight months.

I saw M. de Malmusi this morning, but found he had little to tell me as to the situation at the Court beyond what I have already reported to your Lordship. The chief impression he carried away with him, and it is similar to that made upon me, was the astounding ignorance of the leading men as to affairs, countries, and Governments outside of Morocco. He was unable to understand how men who were in some kind of touch with the outside world could be so destitute of the most elementary knowledge.

He thought that the Sultan promised well, and was anxious to act fairly and justly; but he seemed to doubt whether His Majesty, when he had become more habituated to the novelty of his position as undisputed Sovereign, might not relapse into indifference and gradually leave the conduct of affairs to others.

M. de Malmusi told me that he was of opinion that the Moorish Government had quite resigned itself to the loss of Tuat and Igli; and that the protest which was recently addressed to the foreign Representatives was merely made to satisfy the public. There had been some anxiety as to Tafilelt; but he thought that on that point the Sultan was now more reassured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 152.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 104. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June* 29, 1900.

THE Marquis Aguilar de Campos has been good enough to explain to me the scope of the Spanish negotiations respecting Morocco, with France on the one hand and the Moorish Government on the other.

Under the first head, Spain will occupy a boundary on the coast from Cape Blanco 21° 20′ north to 12° west longitude, when the line goes with a slight curve indefinitely to the north. France reserves all the Sahara east of longitude 12°.

Spain maintains that the line from Cape Nun to Cape Bogador belongs to Morocco, subject to the reserves made by England in the Treaty of 1895 as regards Cape Juby. This point must be dealt with between Spain, Morocco, and England, and not with France. Acting in harmony with England, Spain will endeavour to obtain possession of the coast from Cape Bogador to Cape Nun in exchange for Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña.

Spain obtains a quadrangle between the Rivers Muni and Campo up to 11° 20′ east longitude.

The Spanish Government has always had the intention, in dealing with the Government of Morocco, to obtain the assent of Her Majesty's Government. They will not make any disclosure to France or Germany, and the Minister hopes this communication will be considered absolutely confidential.

The Duke of Mandas is charged to negotiate on all these points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Copy sent to Tangier by bag 1st July.

H. D. W.

No. 153.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord, *Madrid, June* 30, 1900.

AFTER drafting my despatch No. 104 of yesterday's date, I sent Mr. Wyndham to call on Señor Merry del Val, the private secretary of the Marquis Aguilar de Campos, in order to ascertain whether I had accurately conveyed the details of the information given me by his Excellency.

Señor Merry del Val called this morning and left a paper, copy and translation of which I have the honour to inclose.

Señor Merry del Val explained that the proposed boundary with France, running east and north of Cape Blanco, was only drawn a very short distance north of 26° 7′, as the Spanish Government recognized the territory north of that latitude as belonging to Morocco.

The Moorish Government had recognized the existence of Spanish rights at Ifni (Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña); but these, as Señor Merry del Val explained, might eventually be exchanged for a strip of territory further south. The Spanish Government were, however, anxious to take into consideration conditional British rights at Cape Juby, respecting which the Duke de Mandas had been instructed to negotiate in London.

In speaking about the delimitations in the Congo district, Señor Merry del Val said that Spain had claims of long standing to both banks of the Muni River, but that his Government were abandoning their rights on the southern bank, receiving in exchange territory between the Muni and the Campo Rivers.

Señor Merry del Val mentioned that the Minister of State considered there was no necessity for keeping the negotiations secret, as far as the French and German Governments were concerned. I cannot quite understand this, as, in conversation, the Marquis Aguilar de Campos strongly recommended secrecy towards France in all not contained in the Treaty with that country.

His Excellency informed me in a private letter last night that he had just heard of the signature by M. Delcassé and Señor Leon y Castillo of a Convention in terms the substance of which he had communicated to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Copy sent to Tangier by bag 1st July.

H. D. W.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Memorandum by Señor Merry del Val.

(Translation.)

THE Treaty leaves our possessions undefined to the north. We understand that their northern limit is Morocco. The map annexed to the Treaty with France includes, with the exception of a very small extension of territory, little north of 26° 7′ north.

It is within these limits that France, in the projected Treaty with Spain, reserves to itself the Sahara to the east of longitude 12°.

As regards the coast between Cape Bogador and Cape Nun, Spain would have no objection to exchanging the rights which she has at Ifni, and these the Moorish Government offer to hand over at once, for a point on the coast in question. But, while the Spanish Government has entered into pourparlers for the purpose with the Moorish Government, it has always intended to respect clause 2 of the Treaty signed by Mr. Satow in 1895, in proof of which the Duke of Mandas has made a statement to this effect to Lord Salisbury. His Lordship was good enough to reply that under these circumstances he did not see any reason to object for the present, but that he would like to study the question.

In the Congo district the boundaries are practically the Rivers Muni and Campo, and meridian 11° 20′.

The German Ambassador is informed of this second part of the Treaty, which deals with territories bordering on German Cameroons.

France is also aware of the proposal for exchange mentioned above. At the proper

time the Spanish Minister would, should the case arise, inform the other Powers of the proposal, since he so far understands that the exchange for any other place close by of the rights recognized by Morocco as belonging to Spain would not affect the *status quo* which all desire to preserve.

June 30, 1900.

No. 154.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord, *Madrid, July* 1, 1900.

THE newspapers are publishing enthusiastic articles in praise of the Treaty with France just signed.

It is said that Señor Leon y Castillo is about to be created Marquess de Muni in acknowledgment of the part he has taken in the negotiation of this act.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Epoca," the Government organ, of last night, containing an analysis of the Treaty. A translation will be forwarded as soon as possible.*

In another part of that journal a recommendation is made to the Geographical Society as well as to the Chambers of Commerce and other Associations to undertake an initiative in favour of colonizing the territories now acquired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Extract from "La Epoca" of June 30, 1900.

(Translation.)

SENOR LEON Y CASTILLO and M. Delcassé have signed at Paris a Treaty defining the boundaries between the Spanish and French possessions in the Gulf of Guinea and Western Sahara.

This Convention ends the vexatious controversies which have been so long carried on between our Government and that of France, and which have more than once been on the point of disturbing the harmonious relations happily subsisting between the two countries.

In the Gulf of Guinea the Spanish claims rested on the famous Treaties of San Ildefonso and El Pardo (1777–78). By these, as our readers know, Portugal acquired the Island of Santa Catalina and the Colony of Sacramento' (both in America), ceding to Spain in return the Islands of Fernando Poo and Annobon, and recognizing besides the exclusive right of the subjects of His Catholic Majesty to trade with the ports and coasts of the River Gaboon, of Cameroons, of Santo Domingo, of Cabo Fermozo and with the others of those regions. The Treaty of El Pardo distinguished very clearly between territories transferred to Spain "in full sovereignty" (Fernando Poo and Annobon) and territories over which Spanish subjects acquired no rights but that of trade and commerce; but our Governments have always interpreted the Treaty on the principles that, given the ideas prevailing at the time of its conclusion, the exclusive right of trading conceded by Portugal in the Gulf of Guinea amounted to the right of ownership and disposal of that coast; other grounds for this interpretation are the onerous character of the cession, the stipulations introduced, in order that, in spite of it, the Portuguese might continue to enjoy the right of trading with the natives, and, finally, the inconceivability of Spain, having exchanged possessions like Sacramento and Santa Catalina for two islands like Fernando Poo and Annobon, and for the mere right of trading with a country whose commercial importance was as yet unknown.

Whatever the legal value of this reading of the Treaty the best way to procure its recognition by the other Powers would have been to effectively occupy the territory claimed; and this is what Spain did, although very incompletely: Some religious Missions were subsidized, Agreements were made in 1846, 1848, 1858, 1860,

* Since made and now inclosed.—H. D. W.

1861, 1864, and 1873 with the native inhabitants of Cape Juan and its neighbourhood, and military forces were posted on the islands called Elobeyes, at the mouth of the Muni.

The delta of the Niger, however, the greater part of the Cameroons, the Bight of Biafra, the estuaries of the Gaboon and Munda were abandoned to the occupation of the colonizing countries, and passed one after another into the power of Great Britain, France, and Germany; and when, in 1884, the African Society attempted to take possession of the territories to which Spain had a right, it only found one bit of the coast (between the German Colony of the Cameroons and the French Colony of Gaboon) on which a foreign sovereignty had not been planted.

Even this bit of coast, watered by the Rivers San Benito and Muni, was claimed by France, which adduced as titles its Treaties with the natives, and pointed as living proofs to the French flags flying on the beach and in the interior, to the trading stations along the Muni, the San Benito, and the Campo, the military posts at Bata, and the custom-houses at D'nombo and other places.

At the time of its protest against the explorations of Señor Montes de Oca (Governor of Fernando Poo) and of Messrs. Iradier and Ossorio (agents of the African Society), the French Government made some observations on the Protectorate just proclaimed by Spain over the Sahara Coast from Cape Bojador to Cape Blanco with a view to encouraging the working of the great fishing bank, and so assisting the the Canary Islands.

The claim of France was that the traditional boundary of its possessions had always been Cape Blanco, and that, consequently, the promontory of that name, together with the two bays, West Bay and Galgo Bay, belonged to France. To admit this claim was to deprive the fishermen of the Canaries of their principal places of refuge and shelter.

Differences so profound between Spain and France could not be reconciled by ordinary means: so in view of the excellent result obtained in the case of the French controversies with Great Britain and Portugal, the two Governments decided to appoint a Mixed Commission.

The Commission, indeed, met, and even prolonged its labours for five years, examining ancient Treaties, copying maps of those who, like Aranda and Floridablanca, had taken part in the negotiation of the Agreement of the Pardo, and discussing the validity of Treaties with the natives, the informality of which was, to tell the truth, about equalled by the incapacity of the parties to conclude them. The result of these discussions was that neither on the point of interpretation nor of principles, nor even of the geographical distribution of the tribes of the disputed regions, could the Delegates come to any agreement, so, when the arguments on both sides had been exhausted, it was determined to proceed to a practical solution, that is, to a partition of the territory.

As to Cape Blanco, they succeeded in agreeing to divide the promontory in the middle, giving Spain West Bay, and leaving France Galgo Bay; but in Guinea there was so wide a difference between the claims of the two countries that it was impossible to arrive at a compromise.

The Mixed Commission of 1891 was therefore dissolved; at one moment it was thought desirable to submit the question to arbitration (which would certainly have been adverse to us, owing to the doubtful meaning of the Treaty of the Pardo, and the effective character of the French occupation), and finally the Melilla question, the Cuban and Philippine insurrections and internal complications, caused the importance of this litigation with France to be considered of secondary consideration.

The compromise entered into by the two countries to respect the *status quo* until a definite agreement was arrived at should have been sufficient to protect our interests.

Unfortunately, while political action and Spanish capital was employed elsewhere, the French were not losing their time nor opportunities: custom-houses, forts, lighthouses, sanitary stations, and trading establishments were opened by our neighbours, for the purpose of extending in all possible manners their prestige and sovereignty.

The authorities at Fernando Poo, who witnessed this development, in vain attempted to check it, but they could do little else than protest. More than once the energy of the protest and the bitterness of the discussion with the authorities of the French Congo reached such a pitch that an act of violence appeared imminent. After an act of this nature the vindication of our rights would have met with even more insuperable difficulties than before.

Such a condition of things, leading to the diminution of our prestige in these countries, and which compromised our moral force—the basis of any future authority we might exercise—could not continue. Thus Señor Silvela's Cabinet, on coming to power, at once sought a solution compatible with our interests and our power. The attitude of the French Government (to which the skill and personal influence of our Ambassador in Paris greatly contributed), considerably facilitated this task.

When all discussions of an exclusively legal character had been put aside, and both Governments showed a desire of finding a means to conciliate their interests, France at once agreed to surrender to Spain, in the Gulf of Guinea, a district bounded on the north by the German Colonies of the Cameroons, on the east by the 9th meridian (Paris), and on the south by the Muni River and the 1st parallel of north latitude. The district is watered by important rivers, the San Benito, the Utamboni, and the Muni. It has a great industrial future, and the revenues of the French customs amount to more than 6,000,000 pesetas.

The extent of territory which Spain acquires is double the district over which her explorers have travelled. Spain also obtains the district of the Elobey, which is the key of the Muni.

In return, one of the banks of this river and the extreme hinterland is given to France. This district has in reality been explored, studied, and colonized by Frenchmen, several of whom have shed their blood there.

In the Western Sahara it is agreed to divide the peninsula of Cape Blanco; to grant to Spanish fishermen the right of refuge and of fishing in Galgo Bay; under the Spanish Protectorate between Capes Bajador and Blanco (which before only included the coast) is now recognized a hinterland large enough for the exploitation of the mineral wealth of the country.

The boundaries of these possessions follow on the south, parallel to 21° 20′ north latitude, to the meridians 13° west of Greenwich; they mount from there, forming a curve between the meridians 13° and 14°, and from there to 12°, by which they continue in a northern direction. The extreme limits of this meridian is not fixed, and in reality it is unnecessary to do so, because as Spain and France are in accord, as are all the European Powers, to maintain the *status quo* of Morocco, the dominions of the Sultan cannot be discussed in a Treaty on boundaries, and it is understood that on this account the meridian 12°, as the boundary between the Spanish and French possessions, ceases on reaching the boundaries of Morocco.

To sum up, Spain obtains by this new Treaty the acknowledgment of her full sovereignty over 190,000 kilom. of the Sahara West, and 28,000 kilom. of the Gulf of Guinea, or an increase of approximately two-fifths of the size of the mother country.

No. 155.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July 4.*)

(No 316.)

My Lord, *Paris, July 3, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by the Military Attaché to this Embassy reporting on the movement of troops in the south of Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Paris, July 3, 1900.*

WITH regard to the Igli column, it is reported from Oran as follows:—

A battalion of Tirailleurs, two companies of the 1st African Battalion, and two pelotons of the 2nd Chasseurs d'Afrique are now leaving the column for the north.

They take with them about 3,000 camels, for whom the feeding was found too poor in the neighbourhood of Igli.

The column has a strength of 28 officers, 1,000 men, and 3,300 camels and mules.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON.

No. 156.

Sir H. D. Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 6.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 2, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 107, I have the honour to inclose an extract, with translation, from the "Epoca," on the Treaty recently signed between France and Spain.

Señor Léon y Castillo is to be named Marquis of Rio Muni in recognition of his services in negotiating this act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from the "Epoca" of July 1, 1900.

(Translation.)

THE Foreign Office is not idle under Señor Silvela's Government. The Spanish Embassy to Morocco and the presentation of Señor Ojeda to the Sultan have succeeded the conclusion of the Treaty with Argentina as regards literary property and the negotiations with Washington to renew the negotiations broken off by the war. Now follows the conclusion, and a satisfactory one, of the negotiations which for more than forty years we have been carrying on with France, primarily regarding our rights in the Guinea district, and secondly, regarding the territories on the coast between Capes Blanco and Bojador.

We published last night, with comments, the details of the Treaty concluded between Señor Léon y Castillo and M. Delcassé.

Without erring on the side of optimism, and without violating facts, we may congratulate ourselves on this success. The series of losses and misfortunes appears broken, friendly relations with France are strengthened on the common ground of our mutual interests in Africa, a negotiation which appeared interminable has been concluded, and which, in the opinion of certain Spanish geographers, was purposely prolonged by France, so that, through her explorers and merchants, she might continue to break through, for her own advantage, the rule of the *status quo* which it had been settled to abide by. We are in possession of 25,000 kilom. of territory in the region of the Muni and Benito Rivers, and of 190,000 kilom. in the Western Sahara, which doubtless belonged to us, but of which France was depriving us.

Before the negotiation of the Treaty by Señor Léon y Castillo and M. Delcassé the position of the territory and of Spanish interests on the West Coast of Africa was as follows :—

We had no positive undisputed rights confirmed by occupation and possession in that region except over the factory of the Rio de Oro and the islands in the Gulf of Guinea. However, as regards these latter possessions, the two little islands of Elobeis, at the mouth of the Muni, occupying an important commercial position, were, in fact, being invaded by foreign factories, and our possession was in dispute. In Annobon we only had a few missionaries, and the same might have happened had the island been of any more value.

As for the Hinterland, whether as regards the Sahara or Guinea, we brought forward Conventions with the native Princes, precedents and a few journeys made by Spanish travellers. The French, meanwhile, under the constant direction of their Government, were uniting the various possessions of their African Empire, were establishing customs and factories, were extending navigation and commerce, and protecting expeditions like the fruitful expedition of M. Gentil in 1898, who received the gold medal of the Paris Geographical Society.

Days passed in this unequal contest. We appealed to the past without bringing forward new facts. The French made their occupation effective, and strengthened their possession, thus rendering the situation of Spain in Western Africa very precarious. The press actually proposed the abandonment of our possessions in the Gulf of Guinea.

The situation is completely changed with the conclusion of this Treaty. A cause of possible disputes with France has disappeared, rendering it impossible for any Governor as enterprising as M. Savorgnan de Brazza to take possession of Corisco and refuse us access to the Muni. We obtain more than 200,000 kilom. of territory. Although this, in the opinion of some geographers and sailors who are hard to please, may not be all to which we are entitled, yet it is as much as we can develop and administer without incurring the risks and odium of conquest, and without fear of international complications.

We have never supported the maxim that the future of Spain lies in Africa. But when we cannot demand in other parts of the world the expansion due to a great and ancient nation, it will be right and politic to turn our attention to what we possess in that continent, which is considerable, since there we possess the Canary Islands. Africa must be worth something now that it is all explored, and, so to speak, divided between the great Powers, and since two of them, England and France, especially the former, are making great efforts and sacrifices for preserving and increasing their respective territories.

The new Treaty appears to us as a door opening on the future when all other doors were closed to us. We find in it an immediate and positive advantage, since it strengthens the good relations with the neighbouring Republic. Everything will depend on the skill and diligence we show in establishing commercial relations with the territories recognized as under our dominion and with the States that border on them. The complete exploration of our own territory by Spanish travellers, frequent navigation between the ports of the Peninsula and these coasts, the study by Companies and Associations formed here of the new markets open to us, so that we need not fear competition, all this must be the care of private persons and of Government, so as to draw from the Treaty all the advantages which it doubtless offers.

No. 157.

Sir H. D. Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 6.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 2, 1900.

THE conclusion of the Franco-Spanish Treaty is described by the Government organs here as a friendly act on the part of the French Government, as giving to Spain a great future in Africa, while it demonstrates the desire of France merely to consolidate her position in Algeria without altering the *status quo* in Morocco.

Hitherto the Opposition journals have said little in a contrary sense, but I am told that Liberal statesmen are criticizing with considerable severity the outcome of the stipulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 9.)

(No. 99. Confidential.)
My Lord *Tangier, June* 28, 1900.

I HAVE received confidential information from Morocco city to the effect that the Spanish Minister offered to sell the rights of Spain to a fishing establishment at Ifni for a sum of 2,000,000 dollars (a little over 300,000*l.*), but that the Moorish Government considered the price excessive, and declined to accede to the suggestion. I am told that an Agreement was subsequently drawn up by which it was stipulated that a Spanish and a Moorish Delegate should meet at Ifni and lay out the boundaries of a small inclosure, which was to be surrounded by a wall, to be built by the Moorish

Government, with an exit only on the sea side. The Spanish Government was to undertake to use the Concession simply as a fishing establishment, and not to engage in any trade with the interior. Each Government further undertook to prevent their respective subjects at the locality from holding any intercourse, and a Moorish official was to reside within the inclosure, to see that all the fish captured were exported.

This Agreement has not yet been signed, and I am informed that the Moorish Government expect the Spanish Minister to renew the offer to sell in a more moderate form. M. de Ojeda, I know, has been inquiring what sum the English Company received for the sale of Cape Juby.

I am also told that the Moorish Government has declined to grant a Concession to obtain a water supply for Ceuta from the adjoining mountain, Gib-el-Musa. It is further reported to me that the question of evacuating the neutral zone at Melilla is to be deferred till the Sultan reaches Fez, towards the end of the year.

If the above information be correct, and my informant does not appear to doubt it, the proposal of the Spanish Minister to exchange Ifni for some place between Cape Juby and Cape Bojador, as reported in my despatch No. 97 of the 21st instant, must have been subsequently withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord,

Tangier, June 28, 1900.

IT is reported to me that 1,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry are leaving Morocco city for Tafilelt, with the object of keeping order among the tribes in that district.

My last news from Fez is dated the 21st instant, and no intelligence had then reached that town of any hostile movement having been made by the tribes of Tafilelt against the French posts. Reports I have received from other sources would tend to show that the agitation is quieting down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 160.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord,

Tangier, July 1, 1900.

A DISTRESSING incident occurred at Fez on the 28th ultimo. A naturalized American citizen, named Essagin, was riding in the town, and had an altercation with a Tafilelt Moor. The former eventually drew a revolver, and fired two shots at the Moor, whom he missed, but wounded a bystander. Immediately the natives fell on Essagin, beat and stoned him to death, and then burnt his body.

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod tells me that the whole affair only lasted twenty minutes, and he does not inform me if any one has been arrested.

I communicated what I had received to the United States' Representative here, as he is without any correspondent at Fez. He contemplates, I believe, sending one of his staff to Fez to inquire into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord,

Tangier, July 2, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informs me that the man who was murdered was agent for a French firm, and that he consequently intended to prosecute the matter in conjunction with the United States' Representative, and to instruct the French Consul at Fez, who is acting temporarily as interpreter of the Legation, to return at once to his post and undertake an inquiry. He asked me if I did not think he was right to act vigorously in the matter.

I told him that I understood the United States' Representative intended to communicate with his Government, who was primarily and more directly interested, and that it seemed to me it would be more prudent to await a reply from Washington as to what course should be taken. I was not concerned in the matter, but I suggested that perhaps it would be well in the first place to ascertain whether the United States' Government desired to take advantage of the services which he had so kindly proffered.

M. Révoil seemed to think that French interests were equally concerned with American, and that he was entitled to make representations.

I have subsequently learnt from my American colleague that he is telegraphing to his Government, giving a short account of what has occurred, and inquiring whether he should accept the co-operation of the French Minister.

It is very possible that his Government will agree to this, as there is no United States' Agent at Fez, and I believe that the French Minister now intends to await the reply from Washington before taking an active part in the case.

Both Representatives have informed the Sultan's Deputy here of what has occurred, and he has sent a special courier to Fez impressing on the authorities the necessity of arresting the offenders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 162.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord,

Madrid, July 5, 1900.

ALTHOUGH during the present turmoil throughout the world the Franco-Spanish Treaty may appear comparatively insignificant, I think it right to bring before your Lordship, or at all events to place on record, the opinion on that act of the Spanish Opposition.

The inclosed is an article with translation from the "Liberal," the principal newspaper of the Opposition.

This organ does not take the same optimistic view of the "Castillo–Delcassé Treaty" as the "Epoca."

It appears to me that the question of Morocco must soon become prominent, and no doubt the part then assumed by Spain will be important.

It is superfluous to point out how much a war or disturbances in Morocco would affect our interests not only in the Straits, but generally in the Mediterranean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Extract from "El Liberal" of July 3, 1900.

WE seek to deprecate no man's services, and we do not object to titles being conferred, but we do think that what the Ministerial press calls the "Castillo–Delcassé Treaty" is an achievement more showy than substantial.

Even if the 190,000 kilom. in the Western Soudan and the 28,000 kilom. in the Gulf of Guinea were a gratuitous Concession, we should not succeed in turning either of them to account.

We have been for more than forty years in Fernando Po and on the coast between the River Benito, or San Benito, and Cape Esteras, which is close to the Island of Corisco and the two Elobeyes, commanding the mouth of the Muni. We have only succeeded in wasting time in numberless questions and controversies which have often nearly given rise to conflicts.

That was all that could be expected from a system of colonization, of which the following facts show the character.

The civil and military staff of the whole of our possessions in Guinea, from the Governor down to a second-class ship's corporal, consisted of fifty-three persons; the missionary staff numbered fifty-five.

We spent on material for the Government of Fernando Po, the Sub-Government of Elobey, and the Financial Administration, on the purchase and maintenance of scientific instruments and apparatus, help to poor prisoners, hospitals, repair of buildings, maintenance of lighthouses, cablegrams for San Thomé and Cameroon, &c., 3,400 dollars. The material of the Missions cost us 7,600 dollars.

With such a system it is not surprising that these possessions of ours brought us nothing but a drain of lives and money, while the Portuguese Island of San Thomé, close to and no larger than Fernando Po, became a storehouse of wealth. Suffice it to say that that island has sent to the Paris Exhibition an exhibit little less considerable than that of Portugal and its remaining Colonies.

Were we now to acquire a considerable extension of territory, we should certainly do exactly as we did before.

But our friend France has made no such Concessions.

In the Western Sahara the German maps mark as Spanish the belt from Cape Blanco to Cape Bogador which is now assigned to us. Some even make our supposed sphere of action to reach as far as the mysterious Timbuctu, the city which the famous Badía, in the middle of the eighteenth century, wished to make the capital of a Hispano-African Empire.

We disputed, or rather claimed, the possession of Galgo Bay, a place of the greatest importance to the fishermen of the Canaries. The "Castillo-Delcassé" Treaty now gives them nothing but the right of taking refuge and of salting fish there.

As for the Hinterland, or the 190,000 kilom., our friends have taken the meat and given us the bones.

The line of demarcation makes a curve so placed that they keep for themselves the great oasis of Adrar, and the salt-pans of Idjil, which supply a vast area.

In Guinea we only get a fraction of the territory which our rulers, on the advice of our geographers, have been claiming for a quarter of a century.

We claimed as far as meridian 17°. We have been given 9° as a boundary.

For the rest we have only been confirmed in our rights, which are perfectly lawful, although often attacked by French Governors.

It is true that in 1887 they turned us out of Punta Botica, that in 1889 they refused to allow the cruiser "Isabel II" to enter the River Muni, that in 1891 they hauled down our flag at Kogo, and that, in 1895, at Punta Dombo, at the mouth of the Munda, they confiscated from the agent of the Spanish factory goods which have never been returned to us.

But our protests had not been withdrawn, and none of these acts of pillage had acquired legal sanction.

We are now granted on the San Benito, on the Muni, and on the Campo a share which we had never given up.

Such is the "Castillo-Delcassé" or Delcassé-Castillo" Treaty, which for days has been represented as a stupendous diplomatic victory.

Let us look at the explanation given by the press of the neighbouring Republic, which rejoices that Spain should have resigned herself to a reasonable view of interests which have been for fourteen years in dispute between the two nations.

"In the Sahara, Spain will have the coast proper from Cape Blanco to Cape Bojador, and we shall keep the interior, especially the oasis of Adrar and the sebka of Idjil which supplies Senegal and the Soudan with salt.

"The remainder of the region, which is of no value to Spain, is left free for the development of our Algerian policy.

"In Gaboon we shall establish our full sovereignty over a vast province, where in future our settlers will work unhindered."

France then, in virtue of the Treaty, secures to the west and south the advance of the frontier of Algieria, using as an objective, or as a Turk's head, an imaginary Spanish possession. In Guinea she almost completely realizes the aims of the famous Brazza, and gives us as a favour less than half of what is ours by right.

The agreement is nothing to be proud of, but it may be excused if there exists any secret Convention securing substantial advantages to Spain.

If not, we must be allowed to repeat, with all due respect, that there is more show than substance in it.

It is well that it is not worse.

It is well that this trifling bait, offered to a nation where so few people know much of geography, has not further served to draw us into connections and adventures of a much more far-reaching nature.

No. 163.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 9.)

(No. 332.)

My Lord, *Paris, July* 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting recent French military movements in Southern Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 51.)

Sir, *Paris, July* 7, 1900.

IT is telegraphed from Algiers that Colonel Menestrel, commanding the Timmimoum column, arrived on Thursday at Ghardaia, and should be on Sunday at Laghouat.

On the 11th instant a supply column of 7,000 camels should leave Zoubia-Duveyrier for Igli.

Camels and horses are being requisitioned among the Hamyans in Mecheria.

Much hostile criticism has been aroused by the retirement of the In Salah and Timmimoum columns, now that operations have been concluded in the Tidikelt and Gourara districts. Only the Igli column remains in its advanced position, and doubts are expressed as to the effect on the natives of the retrograde movements of the others.

In defence, it is argued that, until the Biskra–Ouargla Railway could assure communication, it was useless to keep troops during the hot season in a country where they could only be fed by caravans which do not circulate after June. Unfortunately there was not time to reach Touat, but it is expected that, with the command of the Tidikelt and Gourara regions, Touat will fall into French hands automatically. Garrisoned by native troops commanded by French Cadres, the advanced posts are now held and victualled till the autumn.

Critics are asked to show patience as regards railway extension on the grounds that the forward policy of 1900 was unexpectedly necessitated in consequence of the capture of In Salah by the Flamand Mission.

The military press recommends immediate extension of the Djenien-bou-Rezg and Biskra routes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 164.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 73.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 95 of the 19th ultimo, transmitting translation of a note from the Deputy of the Sultan in Tangier to the foreign Legations protesting against the occupation of Tuat and Igli by the Algerian troops.

I am disposed to agree with your view as to the considerations which have induced the Moorish Government to take this step, and it will be sufficient to acknowledge receipt of the communication.

You will, of course, keep me informed of any instructions which your colleagues may receive in regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 31. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 15, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the return here of the Spanish Minister. I am informed by him that his departure from Morocco city was hastened as he wished to avoid carrying out some instructions he had received from his Government, to negotiate for the cession to Spain of a portion of the Moorish coast-line.

In order to block the way to any French aspirations on the coast, he had proposed to the Sultan a negotiation, which was to be purely fictitious, *i.e.*, the exchange of Ifui for some locality on the coast; he never intended, however, that the Spanish Government should take up the matter seriously, or make any definite proposals which he was convinced would never be accepted by the Moorish Government.

He was therefore surprised to hear that several European Cabinets had been consulted by Spain on the matter.

I have sent this telegram to Madrid.

No. 166.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 3, 1900.

IN speaking to my Italian colleague this morning in regard to an arrangement which the journals had announced had been concluded between France and Spain in respect to territories south of Cape Blanco, I asked him whether, when he was recently at the Court, he had ascertained anything from the Spanish Minister as to the progress of his negotiations for the cession of Ifni.

M. de Malmusi said that he had gathered from M. de Ojeda that he was confident of obtaining the agreement of the Moorish Government to that transaction, but that he had not heard how the question at present stood, and he asked me if I had received any news on the subject.

I mentioned confidentially to M. de Malmusi the information which I reported in my despatch No. 97 of the 21st ultimo, as to the exchange of Ifni for some other locality, and also what I had heard in regard to French aspirations to a portion of the southern littoral of Morocco, and of which I understood that M. de Ojeda had informed the Moorish Government.

I added that the question of exchange, if it had ever been seriously entertained, appeared now to have been abandoned, as my later information seemed to indicate that the negotiations for the cession of Ifni were approaching a conclusion.

M. de Malmusi said that he had heard nothing on the points to which I alluded,

though he had spoken freely with the Spanish Minister on the subject of his negotiations; and he was confident that the Moorish Government would not have consented to such an exchange if it had been suggested.

I asked him if the French Agent, Dr. Linares, had been throwing any obstacles in the way of M. de Ojeda's negotiations, as the latter had spoken openly to an English traveller (Mr. Harris), who had recently been in Morocco city, as to the opposition he was meeting with on the part of the French Agent. M. de Malmusi expressed doubts on this point, as he said Dr. Linares had informed him that he had received instructions to support M. de Ojeda. The latter he knew had been at first prejudiced against and suspicious of Dr. Linares, but that subsequently their relations appeared to be cordial and intimate.

Subsequently to my conversation with M. de Malmusi, I received a copy of Sir H. Drummond Wolff's No. 105 of the 30th June, which his Excellency was good enough to send me, from which it would appear that the question of exchanging Ifni for a locality further south is still contemplated. I have not communicated this latest intelligence to my Italian colleague as I do not feel authorized to do so.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 167.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 5, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the United States' Representative informs me that his Government has accepted the offer of the French Minister that the French Consul should collect evidence in regard to the murder of the naturalized American citizen at Fez.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul writing on the 1st instant reports that the town is quiet and orderly, but that the Jews still confine themselves to their Ghetto. The Moor who was wounded by the revolver shot is, I am informed, in a serious condition and the bullet has not yet been extracted. He is a Shereef, one of the Prophet's descendants, and this fact probably increased the fury of the crowd. It also appears that an attempt only was made to burn the body of the murdered man. I doubt if the real truth of what actually occurred will ever be known, as evidence will certainly be conflicting and partial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 168.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 23.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 15, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister returned here yesterday in the "Carlos V" from his mission to the Shereefian Court.

M. de Ojeda paid me a visit this morning, and was good enough to inform me confidentially of the results of his negotiations. He told me that, after some little difficulty, he persuaded the Sultan to agree to the cession of Ifni as a fishing establishment, and that Commissioners from both sides would shortly proceed thither to mark out the limits.

He had also obtained a verbal promise from the Sultan that permission would be accorded for the conduct of water from the mountain Gibel Musa to Ceuta, provided that such concession in no wise affected the water supply of the inhabitants in those regions. The Moorish Government would send a Commissioner to make inquiries on the spot in regard to that point.

With respect to the neutral zone at Melilla, it was mutually agreed that this question should be held over till the Sultan reached Fez, either towards the end of this year or the spring of 1901.

He had also sounded the Moorish Government as to the appointment of Spanish Consular officers to Fez and Morocco city; but, as he found this project was not very favourably received, he had not insisted upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 107. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 15, 1900.*

THE Spanish Minister this morning said he wished to relate to me what he termed a "curious incident" which had occurred during the course of his negotiations with the Moorish Government.

He had, he said, ascertained that the French Government had declined, in its recent negotiations with Spain, to recognize that the dominions of the Sultan extended further south than the River Draā, and had maintained that the coast-line between that river and Cape Bojador was independent.

As Spain, in conjunction with Great Britain, had recognized Moorish dominion down to Cape Bojador, and as he feared lest the French had designs on the coast-line in question, he had informed the Moorish Government of the views held by the French Government, and had suggested that the Sultan should establish military posts along the coast so as to show an effective occupation. In order still further to check possible French designs, he had also proposed that a "fictitious negotiation" should be entered upon for the exchange of Ifni for some other locality on the coast-line between the Draā and Cape Bojador.

While these pretended negotiations were supposed to be in progress he anticipated that the French would abstain from making any claim themselves.

He had informed his Government of this "stratagem," with which the Moorish Government had cordially concurred; but he had been surprised to learn that his Government had taken up the matter seriously, and instructed him to treat with the Moorish Government for the definitive cession to Spain of the whole coast-line between the River Draā and Cape Bojador. He had also been informed, to his dismay, that his Government had consulted Her Majesty's Government and other European Cabinets on the subject.

In view of these circumstances, he had hastened his departure from the Court, and had abstained from carrying out the instructions which he had received. He could not ask the Moorish Government to seriously consider the cession of the coast-line in question, as the Sultan would decline to surrender the territory, and would also consider that an attempt had been made to dupe him. M. de Ojeda said he had never intended that the negotiations for an exchange of Ifni should be more than a pretence, and he could not, after having induced the Moorish Government to fall in with this "innocent deception," as he called it, suddenly turn round and demand that the scheme should be carried out in all seriousness. Moreover, he had never contemplated that the whole coast-line between the River Draā and Cape Bojador should be included in the project; this was going far beyond what he had suggested in the fictitious bargain, and would be quite impossible to carry through.

I listened to what M. de Ojeda told me without any remark, and I asked him, at the conclusion, whether his Government would, in his opinion, send him further instructions, and whether they would not be annoyed at his having suddenly quitted the Court. M. de Ojeda said he would explain the whole matter fully to his Government, who, he considered, had gone somewhat astray. He would have wrecked his whole mission if he had acted as he had been instructed to do. He begged me to consider all he had told me as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 170.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 15, 1900.*

I INQUIRED of the Spanish Minister whether he gathered, during his stay at Morocco city, that the Moorish Government was at all disturbed at the recent French movements in the south of Morocco, and whether he was of opinion that a reply was expected to the protest which Cid Mohammed Torres had communicated to the several Legations as to the occupation of the Tuat oases.

M. de Ojeda said that as long as Tafilet was left undisturbed by the French forces he did not think that the Moorish Government would be inconsolable at the loss of their slender rights over the Tuat oases, and the protest was merely made to avoid the appearance of tacitly acquiescing in the occupation of the above districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 171.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July 22, 1900.*

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 53 of the 11th June, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Treaty signed on the 27th June between France and Spain for the delimitation of their possessions on the coast of Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea. It is accompanied by Maps.

This was very readily given me by Señor Silvela and the Marquis Aguilar de Campos though not yet ratified by the Cortes, and the documents are for the present to be considered a private communication.

I have no second copy, there having been no time to make one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Treaty between France and Spain for the Delimitation of their Possessions on the Coast of Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea. Signed on June 27, 1900.

LE Président de la République Française et Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne et, en son nom, Sa Majesté la Reine-Régente du Royaume, désireux de reserrer les liens d'amitié et de bon voisinage qui existent entre les deux pays, ont résolu de conclure à cet effet une Convention spéciale pour la délimitation des possessions Françaises et Espagnoles dans l'Afrique Occidentale sur la côte du Sahara et sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée, et ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir:

Le Président de la République Française,

; et

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne et, en son nom, Sa Majesté la Reine-Régente d'Espagne,

;

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants:—

ARTICLE I.

Sur la côte du Sahara, la limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles suivra une ligne qui, partant du point indiqué par la carte formant l'Annexe 2 à la présente Convention, sur la côte occidentale de la Péninsule du Cap Blanc, entre l'extrémité de ce cap et la Baie de l'Ouest, gagnera le milieu de la dite péninsule; puis en divisant celle-ci par moitié, autant que le permettra le terrain, remontera au nord jusqu'au point de rencontre avec le parallèle 21° 20′ de latitude

nord. La frontière se continuera à l'est sur le 21° 20′ de latitude nord jusqu'à l'intersection de ce parallèle avec le méridien 15° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich). De ce point la ligne de démarcation s'élèvera dans la direction du nord-ouest, en décrivant, entre les méridiens 15° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° et 14° ouest de Greenwich), une courbe, qui sera tracée de façon à laisser à la France, avec leurs dépendances, les salines de la région d'Idgil, de la rive extérieure desquelles la frontière se tiendra à une distance d'au moins 20 kilom. Du point de rencontre de la dite courbe avec le méridien 15° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich) la frontière gagnera aussi directement que possible l'intersection du Tropique du Cancer avec le méridien 14° 20′ ouest de Paris (12° ouest de Greenwich), et se prolongera sur ce dernier méridien du nord.

Il est entendu que, dans la région du Cap Blanc, la délimitation qui devra y être effectuée par la Commission Spéciale visée à l'Article VIII de la présente Convention, s'opérera de façon que la partie occidentale de la péninsule y compris la Baie de l'Ouest, soit attribuée à l'Espagne, et que le Cap Blanc proprement dit, et la partie orientale de la même péninsule, demeurent à la France.

ARTICLE II.

Dans le chenal situé entre la pointe du Cap Blanc et le Banc de la Bayadere, ainsi que dans les eaux de la Baie du Lévrier, limitée par une ligne reliant l'extrémité du Cap Blanc à la pointe dite de la coquille (carte de détail à juxtaposée à la carte formant l'Annexe 2 à la présente Convention), les sujets Espagnols continueront comme par le passé à exercer l'industrie de la pêche concurremment avec les ressortissants Français. Sur le rivage de la dite baie, les pêcheurs Espagnols pourront se livrer à toutes les opérations accessoires de la même industrie, tels que séchage des filets, réparation des engins, préparation du poisson. Dans les mêmes limites, ils pourront élever des constructions légères, et établir des campements provisoires ; ces constructions et campements devant être enlevés par les pêcheurs Espagnols toutes les fois qu'ils reprendront la haute mer, le tout à la condition expresse de ne porter atteinte en aucun cas, ni en aucun temps, aux propriétés publiques au privées.

ARTICLE III.

Le sel extrait des salines de la région d'Idgil et acheminé directement par terre sur les possessions Espagnoles de la côte du Sahara ne sera soumis à aucun droit d'exportation.

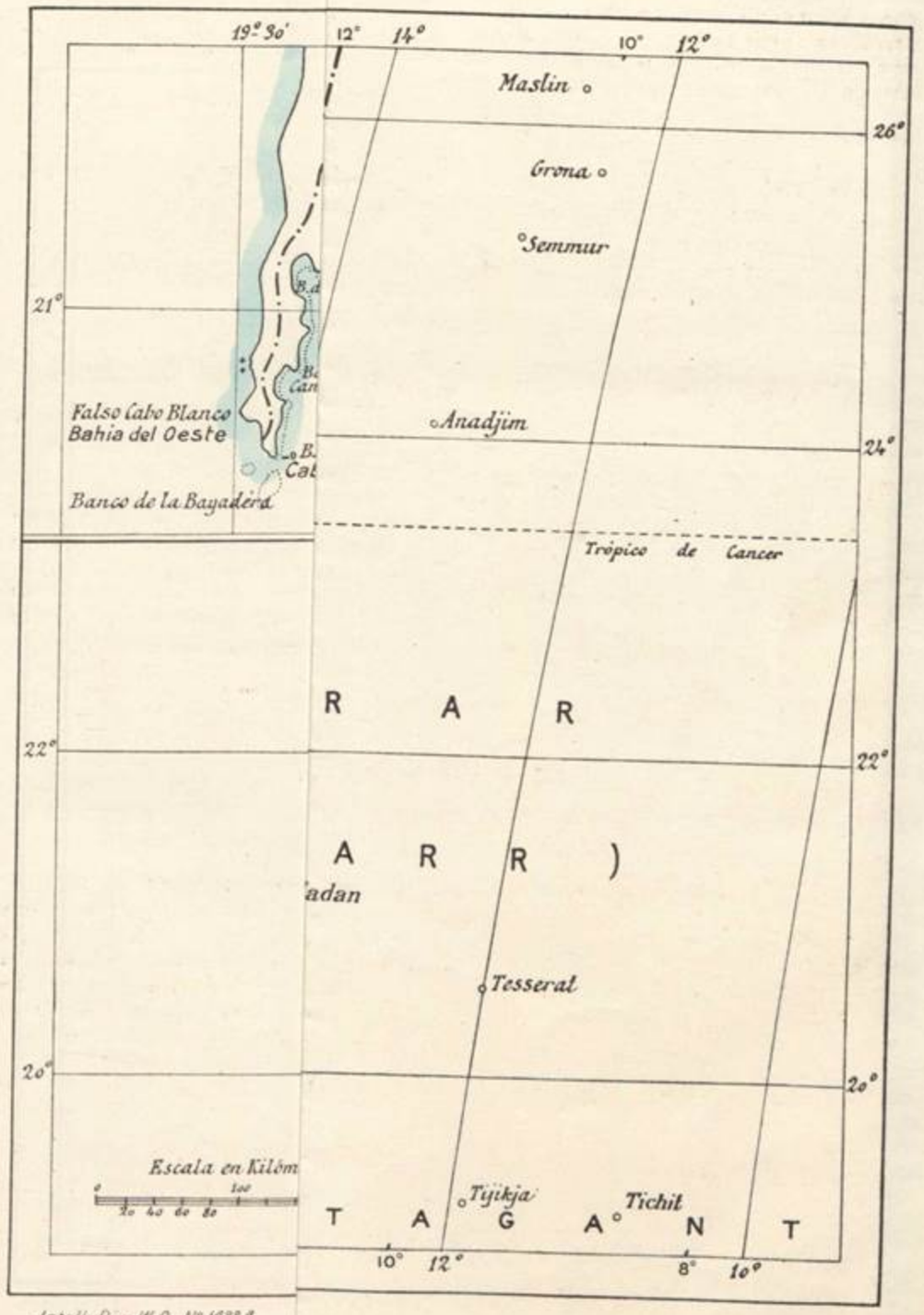
ARTICLE IV.

La limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée partira du point d'intersection du thalweg de la Rivière Mouni avec une ligne droite tirée de la pointe Coco-Beach à la pointe Diéké. Elle remontera ensuite le thalweg de la Rivière Mouni, et celui de la Rivière Outemboni jusqu'au point où cette dernière rivière est coupée pour la première fois par le 1er degré de latitude nord, et se confondra avec sa parallèle jusqu'à son intersection avec le 9e degré de longitude est de Paris (11° 2′ est de Greenwich). De ce point la ligne de démarcation sera formée par le dit méridien 9° est de Paris jusqu'à sa rencontre avec la frontière méridionale de la Colonie Allemande de Cameroun.

ARTICLE V.

Les navires Français jouiront pour l'accès par mer de la Rivière Mouni, dans les eaux territoriales Espagnoles, de toutes les facilités dont pourront bénéficier les navires Espagnols. Il en sera de même, à titre de réciprocité, pour les navires Espagnols dans les eaux territoriales Françaises.

La navigation et la pêche seront libres pour les ressortissants Français et Espagnols dans les Rivières Mouni et Outemboni. La police de la navigation et de la pêche dans ces rivières, dans les eaux territoriales Françaises et Espagnoles aux abords de l'entrée de la Rivière Mouni, ainsi que les autres questions relatives aux rapports entre frontaliers, les dispositions concernant l'éclairage, le balisage, l'aménagement, et la puissance des eaux feront l'objet d'arrangements concertés entre les deux Gouvernements.

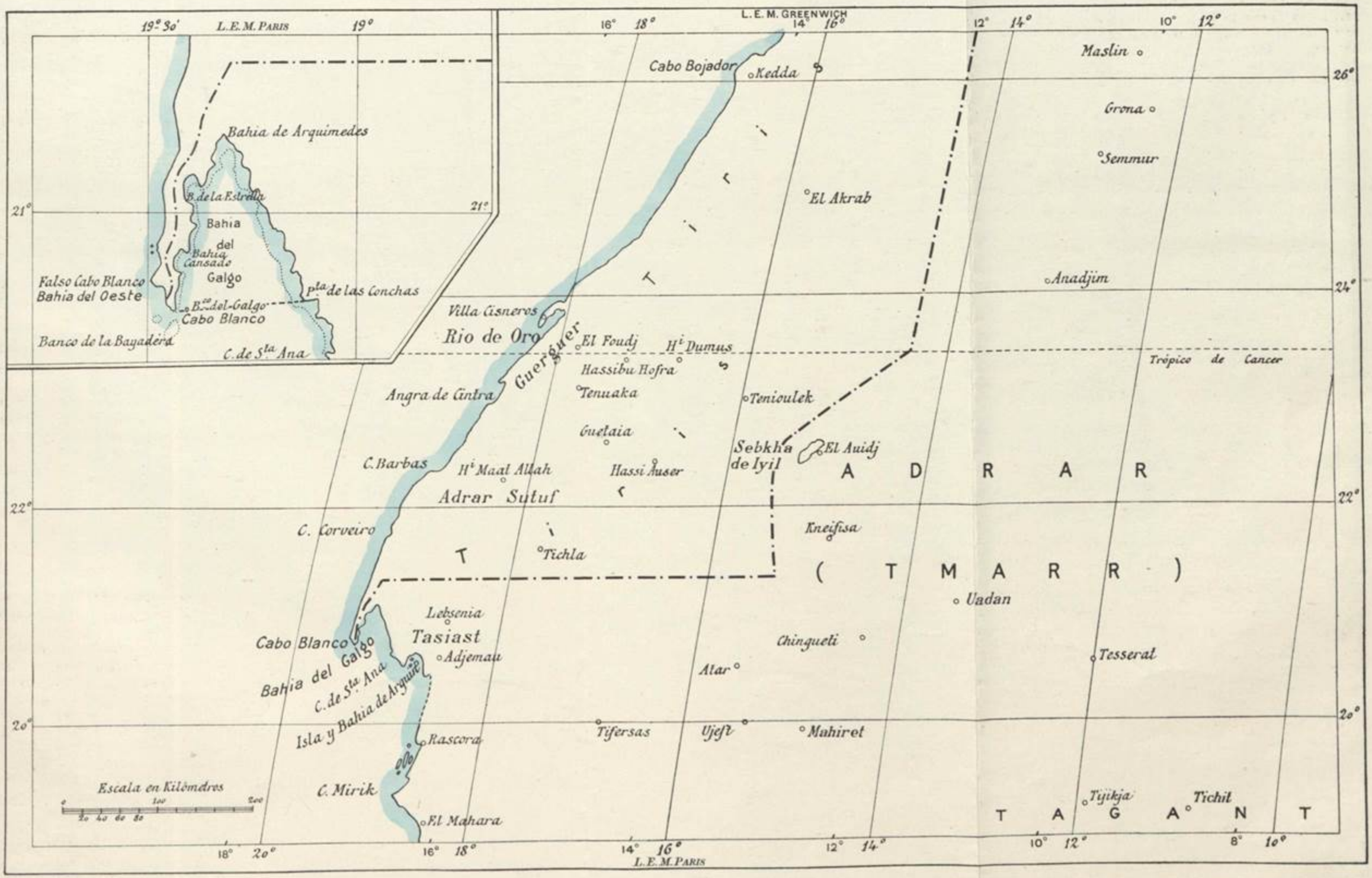


Intell: Div: W.O., N° 1988 a

Lithographed at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1900.

"ANNEX Nº2."

RIO DE ORO

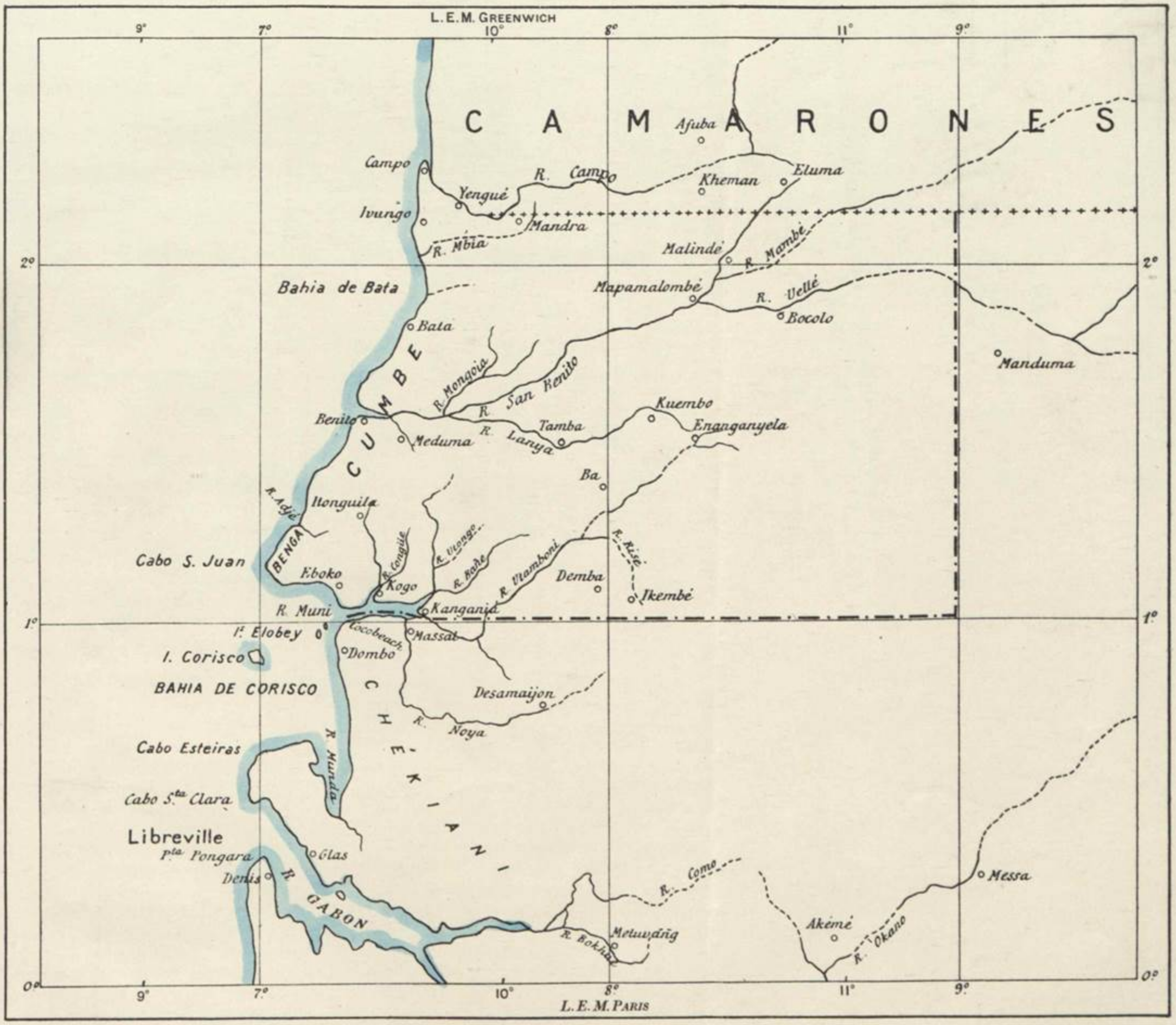


Intell: Div: W.O., Nº 1988 a

Helicincographed at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1900.

"ANNEX Nº 3."

GUINEA ESPAÑOLA



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Escala = 0 50 100 150 Km.

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ARTICLE VI.

Les droits et avantages qui découlent des Articles II, III, et V de la présente Convention, étant stipulés à raison du caractère commun ou limitrophe des baies, embouchures, rivières, et territoires susmentionnés, seront exclusivement réservés aux ressortissants des deux Hautes Parties Contractantes et ne pourront en aucune façon être transmis ou concédés aux ressortissants d'autres nations.

ARTICLE VII.

Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Espagnol voudrait céder à quelque titre que ce fut, en tout ou en partie, les possessions qui lui sont reconnues par les Articles I et IV de la présente Convention ainsi que les Iles Elobey et l'Ile Coriso, voisines du littoral du Congo Français, le Gouvernement Français jouira d'un droit de préférence dans des conditions semblables à celles qui seraient proposées au dit Gouvernement Espagnol.

ARTICLE VIII.

Les frontières déterminées par la présente Convention sont inscrites, sous les réserves formulées dans l'Annexe No. 1 à la présente Convention, sur les cartes ci-jointes (Annexes Nos. 2 et 3). Les deux Gouvernements s'engagent à désigner dans le délai de quatre mois à compter de la date de l'échange des ratifications des Commissaires qui seront chargés de tracer sur les lieux les lignes de démarcation entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles, en conformité et suivant l'esprit des dipositions de la présente Convention.

Il est entendu entre les deux Puissances Contractantes qu'aucun changement ultérieur dans la position du thalweg des Rivières Mouni et Outemboni n'affectera les droits de propriété sur les îles qui auront été attribuées à chacune des deux Puissances par le procès-verbal des Commissaires dûment approuvé par les deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE IX.

Les deux Puissances Contractantes s'engagent réciproquement à traiter avec bienveillance les Chefs qui, ayant eu des Traités avec l'une d'elles, se trouveront en vertu de la présente Convention passés sous la souveraineté de l'autre.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et les ratifications en seront échangeés à Paris dans le délai de six mois ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

Annex No. 1.

BIEN que le tracé des lignes de démarcation sur les cartes annexées à la présente Convention (Annexes Nos. 2 et 3) soit supposé être généralement exact, il ne peut être considéré comme une représentation absolue correcte de ces lignes jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été confirmé par de nouveaux levés.

Il est donc convenu que les Commissaires ou Délégués locaux des deux pays qui seront chargés, par la suite, de délimiter tout ou partie des frontières sur le terrain, devront se baser sur la description des frontières telle qu'elle est formulée dans la Convention. Il leur sera loisible en même temps de modifier les dites lignes de démarcation en vue de les déterminer avec une plus grande exactitude et de rectifier la position des lignes de partage, des chemins ou rivières ainsi que des villes ou villages indiqués dans les cartes susmentionnées.

Les changements ou corrections proposés d'un commun accord par les dits Commissaires ou Délégués seront soumis à l'approbation des Gouvernements respectifs.

Annex No. 2.—Map of the Rio d'Oro.

Annex No. 3.—Map of Guinea Española.

No. 172.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received July* 30.)

(No. 132. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 26, 1900.

SEÑOR SILVELA informs me that the Government have come to terms with Morocco on the following points:—

Morocco will cede to Spain the fishing stating of Ifni as being the same as, or in lieu of, Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña, specified in the Treaty of Wad Ras and the exact locality of which has hitherto never been clearly defined.

Morocco will also cede to Spain some springs of water not far from Ceuta for the supply of that fortress.

The Sultan of Morocco, to show his friendship to Spain, undertakes himself to visit Melilla for the delimitation of the neutral zone.

Señor Silvela, who called himself to inform me of this, added that he did not think the Treaty of much consequence.

Señor Ojeda, Spanish Minister at Tangier, who is of an excitable disposition, has tried to represent the arrangement as a great diplomatic triumph. Señor Silvela does not concur in this view, but looks on the arrangement as of comparatively small moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 173.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 7, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatches Nos. 73 and 74 of the 21st and 22nd May, I have the honour to report that I learn from a correspondent at the Court that Sid Abdulkerim Ben Shiman has now been officially appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, which have been entirely taken out of the Grand Vizier's hands. This appointment has, however, not yet been announced to the foreign Representatives.

The actual Grand Vizier appears to have little or no power at the Court—where the ruling spirit is the Minister for War, Kaid Mehdi-el-M'nebhi—though there is no confirmation of the report current in Tangier during the last few days that the latter had been actually appointed Grand Vizier in the place of Hadj Mokhtan. My correspondent, however, tells me that all the power is in the hands of Kaid Mehdi, who stands high in the Sultan's favour and confidence. Unfortunately, he does not appear to be making good use of his position, for in order to satisfy his young master's ambition to amass wealth, he has been effecting changes amongst the country Governors, imprisoning some of the present Governors and reappointing their predecessors who were in prison, but have now paid large sums to be reinstated. As they have in most cases had to borrow from usurers the sums paid for their posts they will, on arrival in their districts, extort the money from the unfortunate people under their rule, and my correspondent considers the outlook very serious, for the tribes, who had already been ground down through the exactions of their Governors to satisfy the greed for wealth of the late Grand Vizier, will probably now break into open revolt if they find that their lot, instead of being improved by the death of him on whom they had looked as the cause of their oppression, becomes actually worse under the new Vizier.

The state of the Sus tribes is already unsatisfactory, and may cause the Sultan to delay his departure for his northern capitals. It is also reported here, though with what truth it is impossible to say, that the Buber tribes inhabiting the mountainous country between Mequinez and Marakesh are in a state of unrest. It is therefore to be feared that should a serious revolt break out in any of the principal provinces it

may be the signal for risings in other districts where the Sultan's authority is never very strong, and the position of the Government would become very dangerous.

I think it my duty to place your Lordship in possession of the views of my correspondent, which I trust, however, may prove to be too pessimistic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 174.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 114. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 10, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatches No. 97 of the 21st June and No. 107 of the 15th July, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister this morning, during a visit I paid him in connection with another matter, spontaneously reverted to the question of the proposed exchange of Ifni for a site north of Wad Draa.

He held much the same language as was reported by Sir A. Nicolson in the latter of the above-mentioned despatches, except that he no longer referred to the proposal as a wild scheme, but spoke of the serious intention to exchange Ifni, not for the whole coast-line from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador, but merely for Cape Juby. He informed me that he had heard from his Government that the Spanish Ambassador at London had mentioned the subject to your Lordship, and that your Lordship had replied that you saw no objection to the exchange, and that it should be carried out at once. In answer to his inquiry whether I had heard of this conversation, I told M. de Ojeda that I had seen a despatch on the subject, and that my impression was, that your Lordship had merely informed the Spanish Ambassador that at first sight there appeared to be no objection to the exchange, but that your Lordship could not express a definite opinion until you had been able to examine the matter.

I observed to M. de Ojeda, that by the terms of the Agreement with Morocco, Cape Juby was to be open to trade, and several British merchants had applied to establish themselves there, and I inquired whether his Government proposed to make of Cape Juby merely a fishing-station or a trading post.

M. de Ojeda replied that the condition the Moorish Government wished to impose as to Ifni, or any other place taken as "Santa Cruz de Mar Pequena," being merely a fishing-station was absurd and impracticable, for the power of the Moorish Government in those regions was so shadowy, that even with the proposed walls they would not be able to prevent the smuggling which would certainly take place; there would be nothing to prevent small vessels loading cargo inside the walls and landing it on any point of the coast 10 or 20 miles off; the Spanish Government, therefore, he added, would make it a trading port just like Melilla.

Subsequently, after referring to your Lordship's despatch to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, No. 48 A of the 26th June, I again called upon M. de Ojeda and inquired as to the date of the interview between your Lordship and the Spanish Ambassador of which he had spoken, as, on again reading the despatch to which I had before referred, I had found that my recollection as to what your Lordship had replied on the subject to the Spanish Ambassador was correct.

M. de Ojeda then placed in my hand a despatch from his Government, which he stated was dated the 28th June, and allowed me to read a paragraph, which was to the effect that the only Power that could object to the proposed exchange was Great Britain, which, however, had shown a benevolent disposition, as your Lordship had raised no objection to it, and had said it ought to be carried out quickly.

I observed to M. de Ojeda that I had understood that the original proposal was to obtain the whole coast-line from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador, and not merely Tarfaya or Cape Juby.

M. de Ojeda replied that his Government would like to obtain the whole coast, and would offer to pay a sum of money for it, as well as giving up their claims to Ifni, but if the Sultan would not agree to that, they would try to obtain Cape Juby only as an equivalent for Ifni. He added that in his own personal opinion his Government would do well to offer to cede Peñon and Alhucemas as well as Ifni, as an extra inducement to the Sultan to give up the whole coast between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador, as these two places were absolutely useless to Spain, and impossible to defend against a serious attack, whilst they were a source of constant trouble in connection with smuggling, &c.

M. de Ojeda begged me to treat all he had said to me as strictly confidential, as he was very anxious that no suspicion of the proposed negotiations should be entertained in other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

H. E. W.

No. 175.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 20, 1900.

A LETTER has been addressed to me by Cid Torres, with reference to the protest made in his letter of the 18th June, against the action taken by the French in Tuat and the neighbouring districts. According to his statement the Algerian troops have advanced from the positions which were occupied by them at that time, and they are even sending scouting parties to the tribes for the purpose of reconnoitring; thus intimidating the tribes which are situated at some distance from the frontier. Nevertheless, efforts are still being made by the Moorish Government to keep the tribes in check, and to prevent any collision between them and the French troops.

I have been requested by Cid Torres to transmit the foregoing information to Her Majesty's Government in addition to the protest which has already been made, and he states to me that he is awaiting a reply.

The other Representatives have received identic letters.

I had postponed acknowledging the receipt of his former letter, as no reply to it had been made by any of the other Legations, but should your Lordship approve, I would propose to acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and inform Cid Torres that his letter will be duly forwarded to your Lordship, as has already been done with his former letter.

No. 176.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 21, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of the 19th June, communicating the protest of the Moorish Government against the occupation of Tuat and Igli by Algerian troops, I have the honour to transmit herewith translations of a further letter which has been addressed to me by Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, referring to his letter of the 18th June and stating that since that time the Algerian troops have advanced further into Moorish territory and that their action is intimidating the tribes, whom the Sultan is nevertheless endeavouring to restrain from offering any opposition to the French. Sid Torres requests me to communicate this information to Her Majesty's Government as an addition to his former letter, and adds that he is awaiting the reply of Her Majesty's Government. Identic letters have been addressed to the other foreign Representatives.

I have spoken on this subject with the German, Spanish, and Italian Ministers, and they are all of opinion that the original protest of the Moorish Government must have been more seriously intended than they had at first supposed. They had none of them as yet received any instructions from their Governments on the subject, and would confine themselves in the present case to forwarding Sid Torres' letter to their Governments, awaiting instructions before acknowledging its receipt.

As far as I have ascertained, none of the foreign Representatives have yet acknowledged receipt of the 18th June except the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, who, on receiving the note during the absence of the Spanish Minister at the Court, at once acknowledged it and said he would forward it to his Government. The American Consul-General has also acknowledged its receipt.

As the other Legations had not acknowledged receipt of the first note, and as your Lordship's despatch No. 73 A of the 10th July was only received five weeks after the receipt of that note, I have ventured to delay carrying out the instructions to acknowledge the receipt. Subject to your Lordship's approval, I would now, however, propose to reply to the Sultan's Deputy acknowledging the receipt of both his letters and stating that they have been forwarded to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 22 *Rabia II*, 1318 (*August* 19, 1900).

YOU are aware of the information we sent you on 20 Safar last (18th June) regarding the action of Algeria in Tuat and the adjacent districts of this Empire of Morocco, for communication to your honoured Government for its consideration, and for you to reply to us giving its answer. You are now informed that the Algerian troops have not stopped at the position of which we informed you, but have spread further in that district, even sending parties of soldiers to reconnoitre some Kabilas there, and return. This is an act of intimidation against the interior of the Empire, distant from the points of the geographical boundaries, and an attempt to cause alarm (or fear) amongst these Kabilas. Notwithstanding all this the Makhzen ceases not in its efforts to withhold all the Kabilas from opposing these troops. We inform you of the above, for you to communicate it to your exalted Government, as an addition to the former protest against Algeria, and we await its (your Government's) reply.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 177.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1900.

I HAPPENED to be calling upon the Sultan's Commissioner, Sid Benasser Ghannam, this morning, when, after talking of other matters, he referred to the fresh protest of Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres regarding the operations of the Algerian troops, translation of which was transmitted in my despatch No. 115 of the 21st instant, and inquired whether I had forwarded it, and whether no reply had yet been received from your Lordship regarding Sid Torres' former letter, adding that, although the protest had been addressed to all the Powers, it was to Her Majesty's Government that his Government really looked for help and advice in the difficult position in which they found themselves placed through French aggression.

I told Sid Ghannam that I had communicated Sid Torres' letter to your Lordship, and that no reply had yet reached me in regard to the first letter; and I inquired what were the further advances made by Algerian troops to which Sid Torres referred.

The Commissioner stated that the French were constantly sending out small reconnoitring detachments from Igli to the Doui Menea and other adjacent tribes west of that place, and that the Sultan had great difficulty in restraining the tribes from attacking these detachments, and it was feared that a collision might occur, which would give rise to a serious question between the two Governments.

I was careful to abstain from expressing any opinion, and confined myself to hearing what Sid Ghannam had to say. The impression left on my mind was that the principal object of the Moorish Government in addressing this further letter to the foreign Representatives is to save their responsibility in case any collision occur between the Moorish tribesmen and Algerian troops in consequence of parties of the latter penetrating further into their territory, the Moorish Government fearing that the object of these reconnoitring expeditions is to provoke an attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 178.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 27, 1900.

THE schedule of taxes which it was proposed to levy for sanitary purposes at Tangier, and which was submitted to your Lordship in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 2 of the 3rd January, 1899, after having been modified in the sense indicated in your Lordship's despatch No. 12 of the 21st February of that year, was approved by the foreign Representatives and submitted to the Sultan, through the Italian Minister during his presence at Court.

An unsatisfactory reply having been received, the French Minister, at that time President of the Sanitary Council, again brought the matter forward a few months ago in a letter written on behalf of the foreign Representatives.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter which has just been received at the French Legation from Sid Torres, communicating the Sultan's decision on this matter. His Majesty definitely refuses to sanction the imposition of these taxes on the ground that indirectly they will fall upon the poorer classes.

At a meeting of the foreign Representatives, at which the Sultan's reply was taken into consideration, the Spanish and Italian Representatives stated that when they were at Court the Moorish officials had made the same objection, and they felt bound to reply that it was well founded. They stated that a different system of taxation must be adopted if it is desired to obtain the consent of the Moorish Government.

Personally I do not consider that these small taxes could affect rents or the prices of articles purchased by the poorer classes of Moors, though I agree that there ought to be a tax on private landed properties; this, however, was omitted from the schedule, as it met with some opposition.

I fear it will be difficult to devise any scheme of taxation that will be acceptable to all.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Cid Mohammed Torres to M. de Lamartinière.

Louanges à Dieu.

(Traduction.)

AU sage et sincère ami, le Chargé d'Affaires du puissant Gouvernement Français, M. de Lamartinière.

Compliments d'usage . . . . .

L'heureux [?] Chériffien reçut en son temps la lettre du Ministre, M. Révoil, que vous représentez, écrite par délégation de tous les respectables Représentants des Puissances étrangères, à propos du nettoyage des rues, &c., ainsi que de l'établissement d'un impôt sur les habitants de Tanger, les pauvres exceptés, pour couvrir les dépenses nécessaires aux besoins de la ville, &c.

Après avoir porté ce que 'nous venons de dire à la connaissance de notre Maître, que Dieu exalte, et que Sa Majesté en eut pris note, notre Maître, que Dieu élève, m'ordonna de vous répondre: "Que le Gouvernement Chériffien avait déjà répondu, à ce sujet, à l'Envoyé du Gouvernement d'Italie, qui était naguère auprès de Sa Majesté Chériffienne, et quand il lui en tint propos, de la manière dont voici le résumé: les dépenses pour le nettoyage sont prélevées sur les revenus provenant des bouchers et sur la moitié, gracieusement affectée à ce but, des revenus du nouveau môle, ainsi que sur d'autres choses pour lesquelles le Makhzen vous donna la délégation.

"Pour ce qui est de l'affaire des égouts, ce qu'il y a à faire, c'est de la laisser telle qu'elle est, de manière qu'étant nécessaire leur réparation en quelque endroit, les réparations soient exécutées par celui y ayant droit.

"Quant aux impôts, le Makhzen ne donne pas son adhésion à leur établissement, en vue des préjudices qui en dérivent au public, surtout aux gens ayant des ressources limitées, et aux pauvres. S'il est vrai, en effet, que ces impôts ne seraient directement perçus de ces derniers, ceux-ci ne les payeraient pas moins d'une façon indirecte, puisque

le négociant augmenterait le prix de la marchandise du montant de l'impôt, et les propriétaires d'immeubles augmenteraient dans la même mesure les loyers, l'impôt serait en conséquence payé par les acheteurs et les locataires, qui sont des gens ayant des ressources limitées, et des pauvres."

En tout cas le Makhzen maintient la réponse susdite en considération des préjudices signalés.

Conserves-toi bien et en bonne santé.

Paix.

Fait le 24 Rabia II, 1318.

(Signé) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

(Que Dieu lui soit propice.)

No. 179.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 118.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 31, 1900.

REPORTS having lately been published in the European press that the state of the relations between the French and Moorish Governments is very critical, owing to recent attacks on convoys of Algerian troops in the Tuat and Igli regions, and that a French squadron is being concentrated at Toulon in connection with this question, an article has been published in the local French paper denying that there is any foundation for these reports.

This article, which I have the honour to inclose herewith, so exactly reproduces the language held on this subject by the French Chargé d'Affaires, that there can be no doubt that it has been directly inspired by the French Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of August 30, 1900.

L'EXPÉDITION DU TOUAT.—L'agression dont a été récemment l'objet un convoi de ravitaillement destiné à un des postes occupés par les troupes Algériennes qui opèrent dans l'extrême sud, a servi de nouveau prétexte aux nouvellistes sensationnels, pour agiter le spectre d'un conflit prochain avec le Maroc. On a dû lire, à ce propos, une dépêche annonçant que l'Amiral Fournier a reçu l'ordre de concentrer son escadre à Toulon, et que cette mesure "se rattache à l'intention qu'a le Gouvernement Français en présence de la résolution du Sultan de recouvrer le Touat, d'exercer une action énergique au Maroc."

On estimera, sans doute, que ce canard est d'une structure trop lourde pour qu'il soit nécessaire de lui couper les ailes. Il n'est cependant pas inutile de faire remarquer, à ce propos, que, malgré les difficultés de communication et les rigueurs de la température, cette expédition du Touat au sujet de laquelle on faisait, naguère encore, les pronostics les moins rassurants, a été conduite avec une rapidité et une prudence qui font le plus grand honneur à la science stratégique des officiers du corps expéditionnaire. Elles attestent en plus, de la manière la plus éclatante, de la loyauté des explications catégoriques données par M. Delcassé aux Cabinets étrangers, sur l'étendue et le caractère des opérations entreprises dans le Sud Algérien. La prise de possession des postes occupés par les troupes Algériennes a été toute pacifique. Dès que leur vue s'est familiarisée, pour ainsi dire, avec l'uniforme Français, les populations ont accueilli sans hostilité les troupes campées chez elles Dans certains endroits, elles commencent à devenir sensibles au bien-être matériel que cette occupation leur a apporté; les habitants d'Igli notamment, sont heureux de pouvoir vendre, à des prix avantageux, à nos soldats, les produits qu'ils apportent au marché.

Il faut ignorer les mœurs de ces tribus nomades pour considérer comme des actes de guerre, proprement dits, les attaques isolées dont les convois de ravitaillement sont de temps en temps l'objet. Le brigandage est chez elles l'état normal et permanent. Une de leurs principales ressources est le "rezzou," qui est le mauvais coup fait par une petite bande de malfaiteurs. Si au lieu de dépouiller une petite caravane, il s'agit d'un convoi important, le "rezzou" se compose d'une expédition de plusieurs centaines d'hommes.

Les nécessités de l'approvisionnement de notre corps expéditionnaire ne pouvaient manquer, dès lors, de faire naître, chez ces tribus, l'idée d'organiser le brigandage sur une grande échelle. Mal leur en a pris d'ailleurs, car les convois auxquelles elles se sont attaquées, ont repoussé ces agressions avec la vigueur que l'on sait. On peut dire, par conséquent, nous le répétons, que l'expédition a eu un caractère absolument pacifique.

C'est surtout à l'occupation, très sage, du poste d'Igli par une colonne partie de Duveyrier le 25 Mars, et arrivée sans coup férir à destination le 5 Avril, qu'il faut attribuer cet heureux résultat. Pour peu qu'ils se rendent compte de la position géographique de ces régions, les partisans sincères de l'intégrité du Maroc doivent se féliciter de l'occupation de ce poste, conséquence nécessaire de la prise d'In-Sallah. La prise d'Igli supprime, en effet, du côté de la frontière Algérienne, toute cause de conflit avec le Maghzen, et met fin aux incursions de tribus Marocaines, proprement dites, dans les territoires dévolus par les Traités à notre action politique.

Nous avons déjà démontré dans d'autres articles, en nous appuyant sur les textes des Traités et les opinions des écrivains les plus autorisés dans cette matière, l'inanité des prétentions qu'on fait émettre au Gouvernement Marocain au sujet de l'occupation du Touat. Les oasis, comprises sous le méridien d'Alger, occupées dernièrement par les troupes Françaises, sont l'appendice naturel de l'Algérie. Elles forment le pendant exact des oasis de l'oued Rir, où nous sommes établis depuis près de cinquante ans. Or, d'après le texte formel et précis du Traité de 1845 avec le Maroc, "ces oasis ne sont à personne."

Indépendamment de ces considérations de droit, l'occupation récente de ces territoires devrait être, pour les amis de l'humanité et de la civilisation, un sujet de satisfaction. Les populations nomades qui les habitent vivent misérablement de pillages et de meurtres. Or, on nous accordera que tout en leur apportant un peu plus de biên-être, notre occupation aura pour effet de remplacer par des mœurs plus clémentes, ce triste état social.

Il est, par conséquent, vraiment regrettable, qu'en dépit de toutes ces vérités, des esprits chagrins ou mal intentionnés choisissent précisément l'heure où le grave problème que soulèvent les affaires de Chine préoccupe justement toutes les Chancelleries, pour créer, par des racontars absurdes, répandus dans une presse trop naïve ou trop complaisante, une apparente question Marocaine.

Le Sultan, il est vrai, a adressé, il y a quelque jours, aux Représentants des Puissances à Tanger une nouvelle note, conçue en termes très vagues, pour protester contre ce qu'il appelle "des empiétements de troupes Algériennes en territoire Marocain."

Les Puissances auxquelles s'adresse ce faction savent déjà à quoi s'en tenir. Quant au Maroc, puisqu'il faut le prendre comme il est et le juger avec l'indulgence que comporte le niveau intellectuel de ses gouvernants, nous croyons inutile de blâmer, avec la sévérité qu'elle mériterait partout ailleurs, cette intempérante démarche.

Il nous revient d'ailleurs, de source autorisée et d'origine Marocaine, qu'en adressant cette note, le Maghzen a voulu simplement devancer la réclamation que nous pourrions lui adresser, pour l'incident récent des Doui-Ménia. C'était une peine inutile. Le Gouvernement de la République ne saurait sans injustice rendre le Sultan responsable des méfaits de populations sur lesquelles il n'exerce, en fait ni en droit, aucune souveraineté. Le convoi de ravitaillement que les Doui-Ménia ont attaqué a d'ailleurs châtié leur audace comme elle le méritait. Cet exemple ne manquera pas d'inspirer une terreur salutaire aux autres bandes de pillards qui seraient tentées de les imiter.

No. 180.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 119.)

Tangier, September 4, 1900.

My Lord,

IN his despatch No. 41 of the 2nd April last, Sir A. Nicolson transmitted to your Lordship translations of a correspondence between the doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier and the Sultan's Commissioner, regarding the position of the Brazilian-protected persons in this country. In this correspondence the doyen stated that the foreign Representatives considered it useless to discuss the question of the abuses of the Madrid Convention by subjects of the Signatory Powers, when Brazilians enjoyed latitude as to the privileges of the Convention without being bound by the obligations.

The doyen has now communicated to his colleagues a letter he has received from the

Sultan's Commissioner, in which he states that he submitted the correspondence to His Shereefian Majesty, who has decided not to recognize any persons as being under Brazilian protection, nor even to accept Brazilian Consular officers at any of the ports, for presentation of claims except at Tangier, as there exists no Treaty between Brazil and Morocco, and has instructed Sid Torres to give due attention to the Brazilian Consul and treat any Brazilian men-of-war that may arrive with respect and honour, but to go no further.

Shortly after receiving this communication from the Sultan's Commissioner the doyen received a long letter from the Brazilian Consul, inclosing copies of a correspondence which had taken place between himself and Sid Torres and stating that that functionary had broken off relations with him and that the local Governors had informed the Brazilian Consular officers at the ports that they had received instructions to break off all relations with them. The Brazilian Consul requests the doyen to afford him advice and support, and adds that he is laying the whole matter before his Government, and if no satisfactory result can, in the meantime, be obtained, he will not be responsible for what may occur between the two Governments.

From this letter, and the correspondence inclosed therein, it appears that the Brazilian Consul delivered to Sid Torres his commission and informed him that he was bearer of a letter from the President of the Brazilian Republic to the Sultan, but could not deliver it as he had not yet received a copy for the purpose of making a translation. Sid Torres insisted upon the delivery of the letter, which could be translated at the Court, and stated that relations would be suspended until the letter was delivered and the Sultan's orders received.

The Brazilian Consul requested Sid Torres to withdraw the notice of suspension of relations, and give him a term of at least three months to obtain instructions from his Government, but received no reply to that letter nor to a subsequent one in which he stated that if he did not receive a reply within a reasonable time he would hold Sid Torres and Moorish Government responsible for safety of the persons and property of Brazilians in Morocco. In the correspondence there is a letter from the Brazilian Consul informing Sid Torres of the appointment of a native Jew as Consular Agent at Laraiche. To this letter Sid Torres replied that relations being broken off with the Consul they were naturally broken off with his subordinates.

The doyen is communicating the Brazilian Consul's letter and its inclosures to all his colleagues. I have refrained from expressing any opinion, and have merely stated that I should not feel justified in taking any action in this matter without instructions from your Lordship. The Circular has not yet reached all the Representatives, but those who have received it have all declined to do anything without instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 180.

Ben Saïd to M. Matmuri.

(Traduction.)

A l'ami, l'intelligent, le conseiller, le Ministre Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne, doyen du Corps Diplomatique à Tanger, l'Honorable Emilio de Ojeda:

(Après compliments.)

JE vous informe que les Représentants des Puissances amies Signataires de la Convention de Madrid de 1880 s'étant adressées à nous par l'intermédiaire de M. Anspach en nous demandant pourquoi les sujets Brésiliens jouissent des droits adjoints à la dite Convention sans être soumis à leurs prescriptions et même pourquoi ces sujets se trouvent dans une situation de préférence, ils nous ont en même temps informé qu'en vue de cette situation ils étaient d'avis que la discussion ne pouvait pas continuer.

Ayant élevé à la haute connaissance de mon auguste Maître ce qui a eu lieu entre nous au sujet de cette affaire, Sa Majesté Chériffienne a bien voulu résoudre de ne pas reconnaître les protégés ou autres du Brésil ni même accepter des représentants Consulaires dans les ports pour la présentation des réclamations, excepté celui de Tanger, parce que ce pays n'est pas dans la Convention de Madrid ni mentionné dans un autre Traité. Le Brésil n'ayant pas de commerce avec le Maroc, vous n'ignorez pas non plus les préjudices qui nous sont causés par ceux qui s'en vont et qui retournent du Brésil et même par ceux qui s'attachent à eux.

Des ordres Chériffiennes ont donc été transmis à son Délégué Sid-el-Hadj Mohammed Torres pour qu'il prête attention au Consul de Brésil, dernièrement arrivé, et aussi aux véritables sujets nés au Brésil, et si un navire arrive dans ce port, de l'honorer et de le respecter, mais pas plus.

En conséquence l'obstacle que la situation spéciale du Brésil opposait et qui a été cause de retard pour la négociation sur les abus de la Convention dont je suis chargé par Sa Majesté Chériffienne, ayant cessé, j'espère que vous voudrez bien transmettre à la connaissance des Représentants des Puissances susdites ce qui précède, à fin de pouvoir donner suite aussitôt que possible à cette affaire.

Que le bien et la joie soient avec vous.

(Signé) MOHAMMED ABDLAH BEN SAÏD.
(Que Dieu soit avec lui.)

22 *Rabia-et-tsani*, 1318 (19 *Août*, 1900).

No. 181.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 82.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 115 and 116 of the 21st and 23rd ultimo respectively, inclosing a copy of the note addressed to you on the 19th August by Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres relative to the operations of Algerian troops in Tuat and the adjacent districts, and recording your conversation on the same subject with Cid Benasser Ghannam.

I request that you will acknowledge the receipt of the note of the 19th August, and of the note of the 18th June, which was inclosed in Sir A. Nicolson's No. 95 of the 19th of that month, and that you will inform Mohammed Torres that copies of both those notes have been forwarded to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 182.

Acting Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 12. Africa.)

My Lord, *Algiers, September* 10, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a cutting from the "Dépêche Algérienne" of this day's date announcing the entry of a French flying column into Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Extract from the "Dépêche Algérienne" of September 10, 1900.

Oran, le 9 *Septembre.*

LES journaux ont annoncé récemment qu'un détachement en garnison à Igli avait poussé une pointe sur le Figuig, mais que, parvenu tout près, il avait reçu l'ordre de rebrousser chemin.

Voici, sur ce fait, d'ailleurs inexactement rapporté, des renseignements d'une source autorisée :

Les soldats Français sont, en réalité, bien entrés au Figuig dans les circonstances suivantes :—

Le 21 Août, une colonne volante, comprenant un escadron de Chasseurs et le 60e Bataillon de la Légion et une section d'Artillerie, sous le commandement du Commandant Rogerie, de la Légion, faisait une reconnaissance dans la direction du Figuig.

Le Commandant Rogerie avait informé de son intention l'autorité supérieure ; mais il s'était mis en route avant que la réponse lui soit parvenue. Il avait pour cela des raisons sérieuses et justifiées.

Lorsqu'après trois jours de marche, au cours desquels il a été tracé une route nouvelle et découvert un puits, la colonne volante s'est trouvée à quelques kilomètres de Figuig, le Commandant Rogerie dépêcha des goumiers à Bou-Amama, pour le prévenir qu'il l'attendait sur-le-champ.

Le Grand Chef Religieux s'empressa d'obtempérer au désir qui était un ordre du chef de la colonne et, à 4 kilom. du Figuig, eut lieu entre Bou-Amama et le Commandant Rogerie, une entrevue. Bou-Amama était accompagné de soixante cavaliers Marocains.

Dans l'intérêt de notre action dans le Sud, nous tairons jusqu'au moment favorable le sujet de l'entretien.

Bou-Amama invita ensuite le Commandant à prendre le thé avec lui, au Figuig. Le Commandant Rogerie déféra à cette invitation et se fit accompagner par l'escadron de cavalerie.

Dès leur arrivée au Figuig, une diffa fut offerte par Bou-Amama à tous les cavaliers.

Le Commandant Rogerie voulut profiter de sa présence au Figuig pour entretenir le Caïd de l'attitude de ses administrés ; mais le Chef indigène fit répondre qu'il refusait de se rendre auprès du Commandant ou même de le recevoir.

Quelques heures plus tard, les troupes quittaient le Figuig.

En rejoignant le détachement, le Commandant apprit qu'il ávait été dérobé à celui-ci un certain nombre de chameaux et il fit immédiatement prévenir Bou-Amama que l'artillerie était disposée pour canarder le Figuig, si ces chameaux n'étaient pas restitués dès le lendemain matin.

A l'heure fixée, des émissaires de Bou-Amama ramenaient les bêtes.

Le lendemain nos troupes réintégraient le camp de Zoubia.

No. 183.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 34. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 20, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 10th August, I have received a letter from Kaïd Maclean, written at the Sultan's request, informing me that M. de Ojeda is urging the Sultan to exchange the coast between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador for Ifni, at the same time informing him that Great Britain approves, and that it is the intention of France to occupy that district. The Sultan wishes to know if the above statements are true, and asks for advice on this matter from Her Majesty's Government. The Sultan seems loath to part with this district, and refers to Sir E. Satow's Agreement.

I am forwarding by bag Kaïd Maclean's letter.

No. 184.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 14, 1900.

A REPORT has reached me from a confidential source at the Court that the French Minister has inquired of the Moorish Government whether the rumour that the Sultan is on the point of starting for Rabat is correct, as in that case he is desirous of proceeding to that port to meet His Majesty in order to deliver an important letter from his Government, which he has been charged personally to deliver to the Sultan.

I understand that the Moorish Government will reply that the Sultan is making preparations to leave Marakesh, but that His Majesty must first settle some important affairs, and cannot tell how long he may be detained ; His Majesty therefore suggests that, if the French Minister's business is very urgent, he should proceed at once to Marakesh viâ Mazagan, where an escort, tents, and animals would be sent to meet him ; but that if, on the other hand, the nature of the business will admit of delay, it will be preferable for the French Minister to postpone his visit to the Sultan until His Majesty reaches Fez.

So far as I am informed the French Minister has not given the Moorish Government any hint as to the subject of the letter in question. I presume it cannot be merely his credentials which M. Révoil has not yet presented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 185.

Acting Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 12.)
(Extract.) *Algiers, September* 19, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that in consequence of a sensible reverse suffered latterly by the French troops in Southern Algeria, which, although reliable accounts have not yet been made public, reveals a prevailing condition of disquiet in the recently conquered districts of the Tuat and Tidikelt, various modifications have been ordered in the distribution of the French troops in the interior.

With a view to reinforcing the more advanced posts and re-establishing a security which has been seriously impaired by the withdrawal of troops for service in China, two companies of infantry, one of the 1st Battalion of the Foreign Legion, and one of the 2nd, have been ordered to proceed from Laghovat to El-Goba, and a squadron of Chasseurs d'Afrique, which was under orders to take part in the autumn manœuvres, has received instructions to remain in garrison at Laghovat.

Further, a new Commandant has been appointed to El-Goba, and reinforcements have been dispatched from that place in order to relieve the pressure in the neighbourhood of Timmi-movn, where the recent reverse occurred.

No. 186.

Kaïd Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 29.)

Marekesh, September 14, 1900.

My dear Sir Arthur,

HIS Serene Majesty the Sultan desires me to write to you and to forward you the inclosed private letter which His Serene Majesty begs you will hand to Her Majesty the Queen. I was instructed to make an English translation for your information, which I also inclose.

You will see by it that His Serene Majesty has left the explanation of the situation to you. I cannot find words to express how highly his Serene Majesty the Sultan, and the members of His Serene Majesty's Government, esteem you and your most valuable services.

His Serene Majesty and His Serene Majesty's Government are convinced that you will do your utmost to make clear to Her Majesty the Queen the grave situation here, and the absolute necessity of immediate action to prevent the French from having an excuse for taking the whole of Tafilet.

His Serene Majesty has done, and is still doing, all in his power to prevent the tribes from interfering with the French, but the Governors and tribes whose countries are threatened by the French, demand to be informed to what extent the French may be allowed to advance. Igli, which they all know to have belonged to His Serene Majesty, they now see occupied by the French. This has destroyed their confidence in the assurance given that the French would not molest Morocco proper so long as the tribes remained quiet. The people are unable to rest, and from all parts of the country His Serene Majesty is asked if the people are to remain quiet and allow the French to take undisputed possession of their homes and lands.

His Serene Majesty the Sultan realizes with deep sorrow that Tuat is in the hands of the French, and all that His Serene Majesty hopes for is that Her Majesty the Queen will graciously use Her Majesty's most powerful influence to induce the European Powers to define a proper frontier, so that His Serene Majesty's people may rest in peace.

A recognized frontier will do much to pacify the hostile feeling naturally existing against the French throughout the country, and the Sultan, aided by His Serene Majesty's Government, will exert his influence to this end. His Serene Majesty's

people depend entirely upon agriculture, and, until this frontier question is settled, they will not plough or attend to their farms, which will cause famine and distress in the disturbed districts.

His Serene Majesty is most anxious that his appeal to Her Majesty the Queen be kept very private, and does not wish His Serene Majesty's Minister Hadj-in-Torres to know of it.

I was told to inform you privately that the German Minister has written to ask when it will be convenient for the Government to receive him. He has been invited to come at once.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) HARRY MACLEAN.

Inclosure in No. 186.

The Sultan of Morocco to Her Majesty the Queen.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *14th Jomada* 1, 1318 (*September* 10, 1900).

YOUR Most Gracious Majesty is not ignorant of what the French soldiers have done in the east of our country, which events have distressed all minds, and caused a general disturbance throughout our entire dominions.

Every one who hears of these events feels greatly grieved, and how much more so will your Most Gracious Majesty, the descendant of a great and illustrious house renowned for its goodness and justice.

Sir Arthur Nicolson, your clever, highly esteemed, and greatly valued Minister at Tangier will explain the situation, so that your Most Gracious Majesty will have an impartial statement.

The present situation makes it impossible to keep silent, as the whole country is disturbed and unable to rest on account of these grave events. The Governors are unable to pacify the people under them, especially the tribes adjacent to the French.

We only seek justice from the French, the more so as we are their neighbours, in order that there may be no more disputes or disturbances between us, each one to obtain irrefutable rights, and all to be clearly written down in proper form.

On account of the cordial friendship which has always existed between our ancestors from generation to generation, and which still exists between ourselves, we write thus privately to your Most Gracious Majesty to solicit your Most Gracious Majesty's learned and valuable advice to guide us in the way to obtain what we seek, namely, justice, and a fixed boundary, that shall be fully recognized by all the Powers, so that no one, now or in the future, will be able to dispute it, that our people may always rest in peace and security.

We humbly beg that your Most Gracious Majesty will use your Most Gracious Majesty's powerful influence with the European Powers to induce them to assist to bring about this much-desired result.

We are sure we do not appeal in vain to your Most Gracious Majesty, and we beg that your Most Gracious Majesty will be pleased to keep private all that we have written, in the same way as we shall preserve all advice that your Most Gracious Majesty may grant us.

If this matter were not vital to our very existence we should not bring it before your Most Gracious Majesty, as we are aware of the great grief your Most Gracious Majesty is in, on account of the sad loss of your Most Gracious Majesty's most noble and illustrious son. We and our people are still grieving with your Most Gracious Majesty.

In addition to which we know of the most important matters, in South Africa and China, now engaging your Most Gracious Majesty's attention; but the seriousness of our position will not allow of delay, and is our excuse for appealing to your Most Gracious Majesty at this time.

In all confidence we are looking forward to the arrival of your Most Gracious Majesty's gracious answer.

Further compliments.

(Signed) ABD-EL-AZEEZ BEN-EL-HASSAN.

No. 187.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 122. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 20, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 10th ultimo regarding the proposal of Spain to exchange Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy ot a letter which has been addressed to me by Kaïd Maclean, at the request of the Sultan, asking me to inform your Lordship that the Spanish Minister had put forward this proposal, and is urging its acceptance on the grounds that his Government have positive information that the French Government intend to occupy the territory in question, and that it would be preferable for the Moorish Government that it should be in Spanish rather than in French hands. The Spanish Minister has also stated to the Moorish Government that the British Government has been consulted, and approves the proposed exchange.

By the Agreement of 1895 with Sir E. Satow, the Moorish Government undertake not to cede that territory to any Power without first consulting Her Majesty's Government. The Sultan, therefore, will not discuss the matter with the Spanish Government until His Majesty learns the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Kaïd Maclean adds that the Moorish Government are afraid that if they agree to this proposal, other Powers may put forward similar demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Kaïd Maclean to Mr. White.

(No. 13.)
My dear White, *Marakesh, September* 14, 1900.

CI ABDELCREME, by order of the Sultan, has asked me to write to you on the following subject.

When the Spanish Minister was here he arranged to consult his Government as to accepting from this Government some place between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador instead of Ifni.

Before leaving, he informed the Sultan that he had heard from his Government that the French desired to make a new boundary with Spain in the south-west, the northern boundary to be at Cape Bojador; by this arrangement the French to occupy the coast from Cape Bojador to Wad Draa.

The Spanish Government told the French that all the coast from Bojador to Wad Draa belonged to the Sultan, and refused to accept the proposal. The Spanish Minister warned the Government of the designs of the French, and advised them to at once place guards on the land in question.

The Spanish Minister now informs the Court that his Government knows for a certainty that the French shortly intend to occupy the entire coast from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador, and that the French will not allow that the Sultan has any authority over the tribes beyond Wad Draa.

The Spanish Government, from pure friendship, it says, begs this Government to consider if it would not be better to grant Spain the coast from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador in the place of Ifni, in order to keep the French out, and to have a friendly and disinterested neighbour.

They state they have consulted the British Government, which approves of this arrangement.

The Minister also states that his Government has inquired from the other Governments as to whether the coast from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador belongs to His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan. They all say they are not sure if these tribes are under the authority of the Sultan, and, in consequence, the Spanish Minister says that any nation desiring to take over these tribes can do so.

The Moorish Government wish to know if all the above is correct.

When Sir E. Satow handed over Cape Juby to this Government, an Agreement was signed by which this Government undertook not to cede any part of the south-west coast to any nation without consulting the British Government; they are therefore

unable to discuss this matter with Spain until they know the views of the British Government.

They beg me to ask you to send full details and particulars as to how they should answer Spain, and what they should do.

The Moorish Government has guards at different points from Mogador to Cape Juby, and is going to send guards from the latter place to Cape Bojador.

They asked for my opinion. I told them that if the French Government really decided to occupy the coast from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador, I did not see how they could prevent their doing so, in which case it would be far preferable to make friendly arrangements with Spain. That Spain is a poor nation, and would not develop ports, &c., in the same way as France would, and would be a much better neighbour to them.

The Government says that if it cedes this large tract of land to Spain other nations would at once seek an equivalent, and their country would be divided up like China; that they paid 50,000*l.* for Cape Juby alone; and they do not believe that the British Government will allow their hands to be forced in this manner.

They beg that you will kindly bring the whole case before the British Government, and kindly answer them fully.

The Government desire this matter to be kept private, and from the knowledge of Hadj Mohammed Torres.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) HARRY MACLEAN.

No. 188.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 22, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which, as instructed in your Lordship's despatch No. 82 of the 10th instant, I have addressed to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, acknowledging receipt of his notes of the 18th June and 19th August relative to the operations of Algerian troops in Tuat and the adjacent districts.

The Spanish Minister informs me that he has just received instructions from his Government to acknowledge receipt of Sid Torres' note. The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires has received similar instructions, and is to add that his Government hopes that the Moorish and French Governments may arrive at a satisfactory arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Mr. White to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, September* 21, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd Rabia II (19th August), referring to your previous letter of the 20th Safar (18th June), regarding the operations of Algerian troops in Tuat and the adjacent districts, and informing me that their operations have been extended, and you request me to bring the matter to the notice of Her Majesty's Government as an addition to the former protest.

I beg to acquaint your Excellency that, in accordance with your request, translations of both your Excellency's letters above referred to have been duly forwarded to Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 189.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 29th January regarding the danger that is supposed by many to arise from the presence at Tangier of anarchist agitators, I have the honour to report that the German Minister has again spoken to me on the subject. He informed me that the Spanish Minister had stated to him that he had asked his Government to give him larger powers and an efficient police force, as the four detectives he now has are altogether inadequate to deal with his large Colony, composed chiefly of the lowest classes of Spaniards. Instead, however, of attending to his request, his Government had sent to Tangier some of the anarchists released at Barcelona whom other countries had refused to receive.

Two public meetings were held last week which were largely attended by Spaniards, and, though they were quite orderly, Baron von Mentzingen says that after the meeting the agitators paraded the town and neighbourhood shouting anarchist cries, but were happily dispersed by a thunderstorm.

Baron von Mentzingen considered that unless the Spanish Government takes some serious step in the matter Tangier will soon become the home of anarchists, and there will arise great danger for Tangier itself and also for Europe. The Spanish Minister shared his views, and had suggested that the foreign Representatives should ask their Governments to bring the matter to the notice of the Spanish Government, in order that they should strengthen his hands. He admitted that he had large powers of deportation, but with his small police force he was not in a position to exercise these, as he feared to provoke a disturbance which he would not be able to suppress. He had abandoned the idea of having a force of Guardia Civil as impracticable, but he desired to have a body of twenty-five or thirty policemen in plain clothes, and he could then keep order amongst his large Colony.

Acting on the suggestion of M. de Ojeda, Baron von Mentzingen had already spoken to several of his colleagues, who had promised to bring the matter to the notice of their Governments, and he was anxious that I should also report to your Lordship on the subject.

The establishment of such a Spanish police force at Tangier would, I think, be advantageous, and it is certainly very desirable that the Spanish Government should check as much as possible the immigration of the worst classes of Spaniards to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing I have seen the Spanish Minister, who takes a serious view of the situation, and is very anxious that representations should be made to his Government to induce them to check the flow of Spanish anarchists and dangerous characters to this country, though he begged me not to let it be known that he had suggested this action. He said that it is difficult for him to exercise his powers of deportation on these people, when his Government itself had sent here from twenty-five to thirty of their amnestied anarchists who had been refused admission to other countries. He foresaw that the presence of a large number of desperate characters at a place like Tangier, where there is no efficient police control, must give rise to a great increase of crime locally, and that Tangier will become a centre from which anarchists will be able to hatch their plots secure from discovery.

H. E. W.

No. 190.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 123 of the 22nd instant, regarding the protest of the Moorish Government against the operations of Algerian troops in Tuat and the adjacent districts, I have the honour to report that I learn from the German Minister

that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had informed him that, in accordance with instructions received from his Government, he had replied to Sid Torres' note that the French are entitled, under the Treaty of 1845, to the territories in question, and that they are doing a good work in taking steps to keep the tribes in order, and he had added that the Moorish Government would do well to take similar steps on their side of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 191.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1900.

I LEARN from Sid Bennasser Ghannam that the Moorish Government has decided to establish at Tangier a Council for Foreign Affairs, consisting of six members with the Cadi of Marakesh and two notaries associated for legal questions, examination of notarial documents, &c.

Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres will be President of the Council, and all correspondence with the foreign Representatives will be conducted by him, but he will have no independent powers, and must consult the other members on every point. The other members of the Council will be Sid Bennasser Ghannam himself, Sid Abdullah Ben Saïd, who is Governor of Sallee, but has been here for some time as a Commissioner for discussing various matters with the Legations, Sid Abdeselan Ahardan, of Tangier, and two Fez Moors, Sid Hafid Barada and Sid Taher Benani.

Sid Ghannam assures me that the Council will have full powers to settle all minor questions, and to give orders to the country Governors. The more important matters they will examine, and report to the Court for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 192.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 323. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1900.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your personal information only, a translation of a letter which has been sent privately to the Queen by the Sultan of Morocco,* requesting that Her Majesty will exert her influence with the Powers to cause the eastern frontier of Morocco to be properly defined.

It is desirable to keep secret the fact that the Sultan has made a direct appeal to the Queen.

I am doubtful whether any intervention on the part of Her Majesty's Government would at the present moment lead to any beneficial result, but I should wish to have your opinion as to whether or no it would be possible to elicit from the French Government any assurances of a nature calculated to tranquillize the Sultan's anxieties, or whether it would be safe to make the attempt to do so, by intimating in an informal manner that Her Majesty's Government have been given to understand that the Sultan appears to be apprehensive of trouble arising among the border tribes unless some arrangement can be made as to his eastern frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Inclosure in No. 186.

No. 193.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.**

(No. 324. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1900.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier,† reporting a conversation with the German Minister on the subject of the existence in Tangier of a colony of Spaniards of the lowest class, whose numbers have recently been increased by the arrival there of some thirty Anarchists released from Barcelona, who had been refused admission to other countries.

Sir A. Nicolson, who is now in this country, concurs in the opinion expressed by Baron von Mentzingen that, unless the Spanish Government take some serious steps in the matter, Tangier will soon become a hot-bed of Anarchists, thus creating a situation of great danger for that capital and anxiety for Europe.

I request that your Excellency will inquire whether the Government to which you are accredited have received any reports on this subject from their Representative in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 128.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 3, 1900.

THE German Minister, Baron von Mentzingen, has informed me that he has received instructions from his Government to proceed to the Court at Marakesh next month in order to present his credentials and settle a few outstanding questions of small importance, the principal one being the refusal of the Moorish authorities to release a German semsar on the grounds that, being a Sheikh, he could not properly be a semsar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT WHITE.

No. 195.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 490. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 10, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, on the subject of reinforcements for Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 77.)

Sir, *Paris, October* 10, 1900.

IT is reported from Duveyrier that skirmishing has been taking place about the 1st instant between the French and Moors in the region between Sak and Figuig. The French, under Colonel Billet, are said to have swept the whole region up to

* Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 216), Sir F. Plunkett (No. 85), Lord Currie (No. 108), Mr. Hardinge (No. 226).

† No. 189.

Nekhela-ben-Guermaz, killing the Chief of the Beni Arnier tribe and his two sons, and taking much cattle and spoil.

The situation, principally that at Touat, will necessitate probably further reinforcements than those already destined. At any rate, there are under orders to start on the 19th instant for Alegeria, 15 officers and 400 men of the 92nd Regiment, forming the 4th battalion. On the 26th instant. also, the 4th battalion, 400 strong, of the 121st Regiment, is to leave.

Later, the reinforcements ordered from the 12th Corps, *i.e.*, the 4th battalions of the 14th and 108th Regiments, will embark.

The Intendance service of the 15th Corps has sent large stores of provisions, and the artillery Direction of Toulon is embarking men, ammunition, and material.

It is believed that fresh calls will be made for reinforcements for Algeria on the 12th and 13th Corps, perhaps even on the 15th Corps; for orders have been received to complete certain 4th battalions without waiting for the class.

There is also talk of a further force of mountain artillery being sent to the oasis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 196.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 95. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1900.

SIR ARTHUR NICOLSON called upon the Spanish Ambassador this morning at my request, and discussed with his Excellency the proposal that the Sultan of Morocco should cede to Spain in exchange for Ifni the littoral between the Wad Draa and Cape Bojador.

The Duke de Mandas entered at some length into the motives which had induced the Spanish Government to make the proposal with a view to preventing any possible occupation by France of that region.

Sir Arthur Nicolson stated that he doubted whether the French Government had any immediate designs on the territory in question. There were many difficulties in their way, and he was, moreover, led to believe, by information which had reached him from Morocco, that the Sultan, for reasons which appeared quite natural, was not disposed to cede any portion of his territories. The French movements on the eastern frontier of Morocco had no doubt caused His Majesty some uneasiness, and the moment therefore appeared scarcely favourable to suggest to him that he should make a considerable cession of territory on his western coast.

The Spanish Ambassador explained that he understood from a letter he had received that the Sultan was beginning to view the Spanish project with less dissatisfaction, and that all that was required was an intimation from Her Majesty's Government that they had no objection to the transfer of sovereignty proposed.

Sir Arthur Nicolson replied that on his return to Tangier he would be in a position to learn exactly how the matter stands, but that, in his opinion, Her Majesty's Government, before considering the question, should be informed by the Sultan that he was desirous of effecting the cession. Personally, he doubted whether His Majesty would at present be disposed to hand over so considerable a stretch of coast-line in exchange for a small fishing establishment.

In reply to this observation, the Duke de Mandas said that Spain would be ready to give "other compensations," but his Excellency did not specify their nature or extent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 197.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 493. Secret.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1900.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 323, Secret, of the 9th instant, transmitting translation of a letter which has been sent privately to the Queen by the Sultan of Morocco, and asking for my opinion as to the possibility and expediency of giving in any way effect to the request of the Sultan for the intervention of Her Majesty's Government for the purpose of obtaining from the French Government assurances calculated to tranquillize his anxieties, I have the honour to state that, while I think it would not be impossible to advert to the situation on the eastern frontier of Morocco without exciting suspicion in M. Delcassé's mind, it would be extremely difficult to elicit from the French Government any definite assurances of the nature desired.

That M. Delcassé would state that the Government of the Republic have no aggressive designs on Morocco, and have no other object in their action than the maintenance of order on the frontier, may be counted upon as certain. In doing this, he would only be repeating the language employed by the press in general (Governmental and Opposition) in reference to this subject, but, although I am of opinion that the French Government have at this moment neither the intention nor the wish to push matters to extremes on the Morocco frontier, I am convinced that the question of the delimitation is not only a delicate one, but one upon which, although he is in no way mixed up with the Colonial group, M. Delcassé might prove to be very susceptible.

I have never concealed from your Lordship that M. Delcassé's attitude to myself, and, as I fully believe, to all the Representatives of the Great Powers except, of course, the Russian Ambassador, is invariably defensive, and, I may add, suspicious. It is a matter of extreme difficulty to engage him in confidential conversation, or to get him to advance beyond platitudes and common-places in the discussion of any important subject, while direct questions almost invariably fail to elicit any but the most inconclusive answers.

It would be impolitic on my part to raise such a question as this except at our ordinary weekly meeting, and in a comparatively casual manner, but I propose to do this next week, when his Excellency holds his regular diplomatic reception, and your Lordship may rest assured that in doing so I shall exercise the utmost caution in order to avoid suggesting to his Excellency's mind the idea that the Sultan of Morocco has directly or indirectly invoked the benevolent intervention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 198.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 494.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I have addressed to the French Government, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordsoip's despatch No. 324 of the 9th instant, relative to the danger created by the presence in Tangier of anarchist agitators drawn from the lowest classes of Spain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Sir E. Monson to M. Delcassé.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, October* 11, 1900.

THE attention of Her Majesty's Government has been recently called by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier to the danger that is supposed by many to arise

from the presence in that town of anarchist agitators. In the course of a conversation which Mr. White recently had with the German Minister, his Excellency informed him that the Spanish Minister had stated that he had asked his Government to give him larger powers and an efficient police force, as the few detectives at his disposal were altogether inadequate to deal with his large Colony, drawn chiefly from the lowest classes. Instead, however, of acceding to his request, the Spanish Government had sent to Tangier some of the anarchists released at Barcelona, whom other countries had refused to receive.

Two public meetings had been held lately which were attended by Spaniards, and though they were quite orderly, Baron von Mentzingen said that after the meeting the agitators paraded the town and neighbourhood shouting anarchist songs until they were happily dispersed by a thunderstorm.

His Excellency expressed the opinion that unless the Spanish Government took some serious step in the matter Tangier would soon become a hotbed of anarchists, and thus create a danger not only for itself, but for Europe also. He therefore suggested that the foreign Representatives should ask their Governments to bring the matter to the notice of the Spanish Government, and has, I understand, already spoken to several of his colleagues, who have promised to bring the matter to the notice of their Governments. In accordance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to request your Excellency to inform me whether the Government of the Republic have received any reports on the subject from their Representative at Tangier. I would add that Sir A. Nicolson, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, who is at present in England, has signified to Lord Salisbury his entire concurrence in the views expressed by the German Minister as reported by Mr. White, and does not consider that the necessity for energetic action on the part of the Spanish Government has been exaggerated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 199.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 90. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1900.

I HAVE received Mr. White's despatch No. 122, Secret, of the 20th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed to him by Kaïd Maclean, at the Sultan's request, on the subject of the proposal made to the Moorish Government by that of Spain to exchange for Ifni the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador.

I notice in the letter a statement said to have been made to the Moorish Government by the Spanish Minister, that Her Majesty's Government had been consulted and had approved the arrangement.

Any such statement must have been made under a misapprehension of the facts. The only communication on this subject that has passed between me and the Spanish Ambassador is recorded in my despatch to Sir H. D. Wolff, No. 48 A, Secret, of the 26th June, a copy of which was duly sent to you. The last paragraph of that despatch gives my reply to his Excellency, and is in the following words:—

"I said that at first sight the proposal did not seem to me to be one to which Her Majesty's Government need raise objections, but that I should wish to have the opportunity of examining it before giving a definite answer."

I expressed no opinion in favour of any action distasteful to the Moors, and I should be glad if you will explain this clearly in your reply to Kaïd Maclean, and inform him, further, that as the proposed exchange of territory appears to be disliked by the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government do not feel justified in urging its acceptance.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 200.

Her Majesty the Queen to the Sultan of Morocco.

(After compliments.) *October* 17, 1900.

WE have received from the hands of our Minister at your Imperial Majesty's Court the letter which your Imperial Majesty was good enough to address to us on the 10th September last.

We can assure your Imperial Majesty that the welfare and prosperity of your Imperial Majesty and the integrity of your dominions are matters in which we take a deep and constant interest.

The contents of your Imperial Majesty's letter will receive careful consideration, and instructions will subsequently be sent to our Minister at Tangier. In the meantime, we are desirous of informing your Imperial Majesty of the safe arrival of your Imperial Majesty's communication, and of assuring you of sentiments of friendship and good-will which we entertain towards your Imperial Majesty. Your Imperial Majesty may rest assured that your wish that all you have written to us should be kept private will be scrupulously observed.

No. 201.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 78. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, October* 17, 1900.

IN a conversation to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I informed his Excellency that I had seen Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier not long ago, and that he had mentioned to me the fact that apprehension existed in Morocco of French designs on the eastern frontier.

M. Delcassé replied that the French Government had explained to that of the Sultan that the only object for the dispatch of reinforcements was the prevention of the recurrence of attacks by nomad tribes roaming about the frontier, one of which had recently cost the lives of a Lieutenant and two men.

A reply had been received from his Shereefian Majesty to the effect that, as far as he was concerned, the punishment of these marauders rested entirely with the French.

I then made inquiries as to the delimitation of the frontier, and his Excellency replied that the survey had actually been made and the line laid down to a point in the vicinity, I think, of Sid-el-Abed. Southward towards Figuig it would be difficult to delimitate accurately, as it was to be a tribal frontier, and the line had not yet been laid down. South and south-east of this point, delimitation became almost impossible on account of the desert.

M. Delcassé repeated that, so far from entertaining any intention of attacking Morocco, he had energetically opposed the dispatch of excessive reinforcements, and was glad to say that his opposition had been successful. Moreover, if France ever did attack Morocco, she would never attempt hostile operations so far inland, but would operate on the north-east frontier.

I think that M. Delcassé was honest in what he said.

No. 202.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 10, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 105 of the 5th July, I have the honour to report that the United States' Consul-General informs me that he has been instructed by his Government to demand from the Moorish Government the payment of an indemnity of 5,000 dollars for the murder of a naturalized American citizen at Fez.

In answer to my inquiry, M. Gummeré stated that he did not believe there was

any truth in the report published by a news agency, that his Government was sending a man-of-war to Tangier in connection with this affair, and he added that, in his opinion, it would be unadvisable to send a vessel here at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 203.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 505. Secret.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 19, 1900.

AS I have already informed your Lordship by telegraph, I had a conversation the day before yesterday with M. Delcassé upon the subject of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

With the object of avoiding a sudden plunge into a topic which might arouse his Excellency's suspicion, I adverted to the note which I recently addressed to his Excellency respecting the influx of Anarchists and turbulent characters from Spain into Tangier, and I asked whether the French Minister had sent any communication upon this matter to Paris.

M. Delcassé said that beyond the information given in my note he did not believe that anything had reached the Quai d'Orsay, but that he supposed he would eventually receive a Report from his Minister at Tangier. He remarked that the latter was always on excellent terms with Sir Arthur Nicolson, and, upon that, I said that I had seen Sir Arthur recently in London and that he had mentioned to me the apprehension existing in Morocco as to French projects on the Algerian frontier.

M. Delcassé said that such apprehensions were absolutely groundless. The reinforcements which have been recently sent were confined to the amount required by strict necessity to fill up voids and render effective the protection which the civil and military authorities in Algeria considered imperatively needed. They would probably have been on a larger scale, but he himself had deprecated any more troops being sent than were positively required.

The tribes on the frontier had been most unruly, and their attacks had resulted in some loss of life, a Lieutenant and two men having been killed upon the occasion of one of the raids. These tribes are located *à cheval* on the supposed frontier, and the Sultan of Morocco had replied to a communication of the French Government that, as far as he was concerned, he left it to them to take such measures as they liked to punish the mauraders and to insure the preservation of order.

As for underhand and unacknowledged projects against Morocco, M. Delcassé said that they had no existence. If any serious attack were ever contemplated, it was evident that France would not carry it into execution so far inland, but would operate upon the north-east frontier at no great distance from the coast. It would be an insensate act to do so from a point to which the transport of troops and supplies would be a matter of exceeding difficulty.

I thereupon asked M. Delcassé about the delimitation of the frontier, and whether there was any possibility or likelihood of its being definitely laid down.

His Excellency replied that it had been set out on the spot down to a certain point, which I understood to be, from his vague indication on the map, Sidi-el-Abed. South of this the line had been conventionally settled as far, I think, as Figuig. But this frontier would be what his Excellency called a tribal frontier, and as the tribes overlap one another, it would be no easy matter to ascertain and lay it down. South and south-west of the above-named point it would be practically impossible, on account of the desert, to define any frontier at all.

M. Delcassé certainly appeared to speak honestly, and his readiness in reply seemed to prove that he was telling the genuine truth.

A day or two previously I had seen the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, who told me that, in consequence of the anxiety known to exist in Italy as to French proceedings in North Africa, he had recently questioned M. Decrais, the Minister of the Colonies, as to the reason of the large reinforcements lately sent to Algeria, and which are, according to M. Dumba, really much more considerable than has been allowed to transpire through the press. M. Decrais told M. Dumba that not a man more than was necessary had been sent, and that France had no intention of doing anything to disturb the peace in North Africa.

M. Dumba observed to me that he believed that this was perfectly true, and that, for the present at any rate, there was no reason to apprehend any movement on the part of France which would prejudice the interests of other Powers in the region in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 204.

Mr. C. Hardinge to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 343. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1900.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 226, Confidential, of the 9th instant, I called to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and made inquiries as to whether the Russian Government had received from their Representative in Morocco any reports on the subject of the presence of Anarchist agitators in Tangier.

M Basily informed me that the Russian Government had received information from their Representative at Tangier which corresponded exactly with that given by Mr. White, that the papers had been sent by him to Count Lamsdorff at Livadia, and that they would be forwarded to, and dealt with by, the Ministry of the Interior. He added that no reply had been sent to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, and that if there was any question of putting pressure upon the Spanish Government it would, in his opinion, be a matter of extreme delicacy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 205.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 92. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 24, 1900.*

I FORWARDED to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris a copy of the letter from the Sultan of Morocco to the Queen which accompanied Kaïd Maclean's letter to you of the 14th September, requesting Her Majesty to exert her influence with the Powers to cause the eastern frontier of Morocco to be properly defined.

I at the same time asked his Excellency's opinion as to whether it would be possible to elicit from the French Government any assurances of a nature calculated to tranquillize the Sultan's anxieties, or whether it would be safe to make the attempt to do so, by intimating in an informal manner that Her Majesty's Government had been given to understand that the Sultan was apprehensive of trouble arising among the border tribes unless some arrangement could be made as to his eastern frontier.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which has been received from Sir E. Monson on the subject.*

You are authorized to inform Kaïd Maclean privately and confidentially, with reference to his letter of the 14th September, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has taken an opportunity of referring informally, in the course of a conversation with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the apprehensions felt in Morocco with regard to the operations of the Algerian troops on the eastern frontier of that country, and has received from M. Delcassé the explanations which are recorded in the inclosed despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 203.

No. 206.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 510.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 24, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting the military movements in Algeria and Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir Edmund Monson.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Paris, October 22, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency the following items of news concerning military movements in Algeria.

On the 19th instant 1,100 men of the 1st Tirailleurs Algériens left Tiaret for Timmimoun, and a battalion of Tirailleurs has left hurriedly for Igli. A squadron of the 5th Chasseurs d'Afrique is awaiting orders to leave.

On the 19th the 4th battalion of the 92nd Regiment (400 men and 15 officers) left for Bizerta viâ Marseille.

On the 17th the 4th battalion of the 14th Regiment (400 men, 17 officers, and 11 horses), left Brive for Oran via Port Vendres.

The following is reported from Oran:—

An important expedition is being organized for the middle of December. Large stores are being accumulated at Djenien-bou-Rezg. The railway from this point to Eoubia is being rapidly pushed forward. By the 15th November it will have reached a point 36 kilom. from Djenien; it not being considered necessary to wait for the completion of the bridge at Oued Dermel.

Three columns will be formed and will converge for common action, with a view to finishing once for all the trouble with the Moors of Doui-Menia and Beni-Guill.

This explains the continual movement of troops in the department, and the maintenance of two companies of Zouaves at Tlemcen, while the other half of the battalion returns to Oran after the manœuvres.

The arrival of a battalion of the 14th Regiment from Port Vendres on the steamship "Medjerda" is anxiously looked forward to at Oran, where the garrison has been reduced to almost nil. The strength of the battalion will be increased, by incorporating 200 extra recruits, to 600.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 207.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 26, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, on the subject of French reinforcements for North Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 207.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 82.)

Sir, *Paris, October* 25, 1900.

IT is said that a further dispatch of 4th battalions to North Africa has been decided on, and that in addition to the battalions of the 14th, 92nd, 108th, and 121st Regiments already sent, the 4th battalions of the 4th Regiment from Paris, the 11th from Montauban, and the 107th from Angouleme have been ordered to be in readiness to leave about the 1st December. These battalions will be all made up to an effective of 600 men.

I have &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 208.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 215.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October* 22, 1900.

I INQUIRED the day before yesterday of Count Szecsen whether the Austro-Hungarian Government had received any reports from their Minister at Tangier respecting the dangers which might ensue from the arrival there of a number of Spanish anarchists, and, if so, whether they had taken any special steps in the matter.

Count Szecsen told me that the German Minister had spoken to the Austro-Hungarian Minister in the same sense as that reported to your Lordship by Mr. Herbert White in his despatch No. 124, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 85, Confidential, of the 9th instant. He added that the Austro-Hungarian Government concurred in the view that, unless the Spanish Government take some serious steps in the matter, Tangier may become a hotbed of anarchists, and, therefore, they had directed their Ambassador at Madrid to speak on the subject with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to call his attention unofficially to the advisability of taking steps to prevent the Spanish Settlement in Morocco becoming the refuge of bad characters.

Count Szecsen said the German Government had given similar instructions to the German Ambassador in Madrid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 209.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 132. Secret.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 27, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister informed me this morning that he had received from his Government a copy of a despatch from the Spanish Ambassador in London reporting the conversations which his Excellency had held with your Lordship and myself in regard to the proposed exchange of Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador.

From what M. de Ojeda told me the Duc de Mandas appears to have correctly reported what passed at the above interviews, and to have given his Government to understand that in London it was considered improbable that the Sultan would be disposed to effect the exchange suggested by Spain.

M. de Ojeda informed me, in strict confidence, that he had originally been instructed to offer to Morocco, in addition to Ifni, the Spanish posts of Alhucemas and Peñon, as well as the Chaffarine Islands. He had, he said, explained to his Government that the surrender of the above Spanish posts, and especially of the Chafferine Islands, would be a most imprudent act, as he was convinced the French would in that case speedily obtain from Morocco, by some means or another, possession of the islands,

which could, with slight labour, be transformed into an admirable port placed in an advantageous strategical position. He had subsequently received instructions to abstain from making the above proposal, and he, therefore, was now left with Ifni alone to exchange for a coast-line of some 200 miles in length.

He admitted that the bargain would have a one-sided appearance, and he invited me to give him my opinion. I repeated to M. de Ojeda that I considered it most improbable that the Sultan would seriously entertain any such proposal; and he then inquired if I would recommend the project to the Moorish Government.

I told M. de Ojeda that I gathered my Government would be indisposed to urge on the Sultan to cede against his own wishes so large a portion of what we had recognized as his territory, and, in my own opinion, the present moment was especially inopportune for such barters or exchange. The door would, I feared, be thereby opened to similar proposals in regard to other parts of Morocco, and the *status quo* which we were all so anxious to maintain would cease to exist. M. de Ojeda asked if the same objection would hold to an exchange of Ifni for a point on the coast-line, Cape Juby for instance.

I replied that such a proposal would certainly narrow the question, but it seemed to me it was one which could be better considered by Her Majesty's Government when Spain had come to a previous arrangement with Morocco, who was primarily interested.

M. de Ojeda reiterated his uneasiness in regard to the French advancing to the coast-line, as by their recent arrangement with Spain their line ran within 150 miles of the coast to the north of Cape Bojador; and it should always be borne in mind that the French Government had expressly declared that they only recognized the Sultan's dominions as far as Wad Draa, and not further south.

I expressed doubts whether the French would, for the present in any case, care to push westwards to the coast; the task would not be an easy one. I still was of opinion that a greater and more immediate danger would arise if the Sultan were induced to abandon to another Power his claim, recognized as it had been by Her Majesty's Government and by Spain, to the coast in question. To urge him to do so would, to my mind, possibly hasten a contingency which it was desirable to postpone as long as possible.

I may add that M. de Ojeda said that the Spanish project had been mentioned at Berlin and St. Petersburgh, but he was unaware what view of the matter had been taken at those capitals.

I should also mention that the German Minister recently alluded to the subject in the course of a conversation with me, and appeared to consider that the Spanish proposal was not one to be encouraged. He did not, however, give me to understand that he had been in communication with his Government on the question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

A. N.

No. 210.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 538. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 7, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, on the subject of French garrisons in North Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 85.)

Paris, November 6, 1900.

Sir,

IT is announced that strenuous efforts are being made to fill the vacancies recently created in the Algerian garrisons. Not only are four battalions due there this month, but the effective of conscripts sent to the 19th Corps has this year been increased. During November arrangements have been made for the transport, by the Compagnie Trans-Atlantique, of 5,000 men; while other Companies are expected to convey a total of 4,492 men, of which 1,100 are destined for Corsica.

The Intendance Department is said to be preparing at Ain-Sefra provisions for 7,000 men. Two more companies of the Foreign Legion have arrived there, bringing the total to seven companies.

The total force echelonned from Igli to Ain-Sefra comprises seven battalions infantry, two battalions Foreign Legion, one battalion light infantry, two squadrons Chasseurs d'Afrique, and two sections field artillery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Military Attaché.

No. 211.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 539.)

Paris, November 7, 1900.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 326 of the 6th July last, the Projet de Loi approving the Convention concluded at Paris on the 27th June last for the delimitation of the French and Spanish possessions bordering on the Sahara and on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON

Inclosure in No. 211.

No. 1833.—Chambre des Députés.

Septième Législature, Session de 1900.

(Annexe au Procès-verbal de la Première Séance du 9 Juillet, 1900.)

Projet de Loi portant approbation de la Convention conclue à Paris, le 27 Juin, 1900, pour la Délimitation des Possessions Françaises et Espagnoles sur la Côte du Sahara et sur la Côte du Golfe de Guinée, présenté au nom de M. Émile Loubet, Président de la République Française, par M. Delcassé, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et par M. Albert Decrais, Ministre des Colonies.

Exposé des Motifs.

Messieurs,

LE Gouvernement Français et le Gouvernement Espagnol ont conclu, le 24 Juin dernier, à Paris, une Convention dont les stipulations règlent la délimitation de leurs possessions respectives dans l'Afrique Occidentale, sur la côte du Sahara et sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée.

A maintes reprises, cette question, dont les origines étaient d'ailleurs lointaines, avait été l'objet d'échanges de vues infructueux, lorsqu'en 1886 on décida d'en confier l'examen à une Commission qui se réunit à Paris.

Après avoir siégé près de deux années sans arriver à un arrangement, les Délégués

se virent, en 1888, dans la nécessité d'interrompre leurs travaux, qui ne furent repris que trois ans plus tard, en 1891. Cette fois encore, on ne pût trouver un terrain d'entente. La Commission s'ajourna à nouveau; et, en présence de ces échecs successifs, on pensa, de part et d'autre, à soumettre l'affaire à un arbitre. Mais la rédaction de la Convention d'Arbritage ayant amené des difficultés, l'affaire demeura en suspens jusqu'au moment où, il y a quelques mois, furent reprises directement à Paris, entre le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne, les négociations qui viennent d'aboutir à la présente Convention.

Sur la côte de Guinée, l'Espagne, se basant sur le Traité signé par elle avec le Portugal, le 1er Mars, 1778, et auquel la France avait accédé au mois de Juillet 1783, réclamait le littoral, depuis la Rivière Campo jusqu'au Cap Santa-Clara, situé à l'estuaire du Gabon; à l'intérieur, elle étendait ses revendications jusqu'au 14° 40′ de longitude est de Paris (17° est de Greenwich), réduisant ainsi à un étroit couloir la ligne de communication entre nos territoires du Congo Inférieur et de l'Oubangui. C'était notamment cette dernière prétention qui, en 1888, avait amené la suspension des travaux de la Commission.

La limite actuelle part de l'embouchure du Rio Mouni, dont elle suit le thalweg jusqu'au 1° de latitude nord. Elle se confond alors avec ce parallèle jusqu'au 9° de longitude est de Paris (11° 20′ est de Greenwich) qui constitue ensuite la ligne de démarcation.

Nos établissements du Gabon sont ainsi mis à couvert, et la continuité de nos possessions Congolaises se trouve largement assurée.

Sur la côte du Sahara, l'Espagne qui, en 1885, avait placé sous son Protectorat le littoral au nord du Cap Blanc, englobait dans ses revendications, en produisant des arrangements passés par elle, en 1886, avec des Chefs indigènes l'arrrière pays jusque vers le 10e degré de longitude ouest de Paris.

La limite, qui vient d'être établie, part du Cap Blanc, et nous confirme la propriété de la Baie du Lévrier, importante par ses pêcheries. Après avoir suivi le 21° 20′ de latitude nord, elle s'arrête dans l'intérieur sur le 15° 20′ ouest de Paris pour rejoindre le 14° 20′ de longitude, par une ligne courbe tracée de manière à laisser à la France le territoire de l'Adrar Temar, y compris les salines de la région d'Idjil avec leurs dépendances.

C'est par l'Adrar que passent les routes qui, des régions Sénégaliennes, remontent vers le Sud Algérien, et c'est dans les salines d'Idjil que s'approvisionnent les tribus du Sahara Occidental d'un produit aussi indispensable à leur existence qu'à leurs transactions commerciales. Il était donc nécessaire de nous en assurer la possession; et, en présence de ce résultat, la franchise que nous a demandée l'Espagne, pour l'approvisionnement de ses territoires de la côte aux Salines d'Idjil, était une concession trop minime pour pouvoir faire difficulté.

Enfin, afin de parer à toutes les éventualités, un droit de préférence nous est reconnu sur les possessions attribuées à l'Espagne par la Convention, tant à la côte du Sahara qu'à la côte de Guinée, au cas où le Cabinet de Madrid voudrait les aliéner. Ce privilège est appelé à s'exercer, quel que soit le mode ou l'étendue de la cession affectant ces territoires; à l'entrée de la Mouni il s'étend aux Iles Elober et s'applique même à l'Ile de Corisco, sur laquelle nous ne contestions pas les droits du Gouvernement Espagnol.

On le voit donc, la Convention qui vient d'être conclue donne satisfaction aux intérêts essentiels que nous avions à sauvegarder dans les régions qui en font l'objet. Elle met fin aussi, dans des conditions de cordiale entente avec une Puissance amie, à un litige qui n'avait que trop duré.

A un autre point de vue, cet accord complète, sur un des derniers points où elle était restée en suspens, l'œuvre de la délimitation de nos possessions dans l'Ouest Africain, dont elle cimente l'homogénéité.

Notre Empire Africain se trouve ainsi unifié et délimité.

C'est donc avec confiance que nous croyons pouvoir présenter à votre approbation le Projet de Loi suivant:—

Projet de Loi.

Le Président de la République Française

Décrète:

Le Projet de Loi dont la teneur suit sera présenté à la Chambre des Députés par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et par le Ministre des Colonies, qui sont chargés d'en exposer les motifs et d'en soutenir la discussion.

Article Unique.—Le Président de la République est autorisé à ratifier et à faire exécuter, s'il y a lieu, la Convention signée à Paris le 27 Juin, 1900, pour la délimitation des possessions Françaises et Espagnoles sur la côte du Sahara et sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée.

Une copie authentique de cet acte sera annexée à la présente Loi.

Fait à Paris, le 9 Juillet, 1900.

(Signé) ÉMILE LOUBET.

Par le Président de la République :
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) DELCASSÉ.
Le Ministre des Colonies,
(Signé) ALBERT DECRAIS.

Convention.

Le Président de la République Française et Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne et, en son nom, Sa Majesté la Reine-Régente du Royaume, désireux de resserrer les liens d'amitié et de bon voisinage qui existent entre les deux pays, ont résolu de conclure, à cet effet, une Convention spéciale pour la délimitation des possessions Françaises et Espagnoles dans l'Afrique Occidentale, sur la côte du Sahara et sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée, et ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Le Président de la République Française, son Excellence M. Th. Delcassé, Député, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la République Française, Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre Royal et Distingué de Charles III;

Et Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne et, en son nom, Sa Majesté la Reine-Régente, son Excellence M. Fernando de Leon y Castillo, décoré de l'Ordre Royal et Distingué de Charles III, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, Membre de l'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques de Madrid, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près le Président de la République Française ;

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Sur la côte du Sahara, la limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles suivra une ligne qui, partant du point indiqué par la carte de détail (A) juxtaposée à la carte formant l'Annexe II à la présente Convention, sur la côte occidentale de la péninsule du Cap Blanc, entre l'extrémité de ce cap et la baie de l'ouest, gagnera le milieu de la dite péninsule, puis, en divisant celle-ci par moitié autant que le permettra le terrain. remontera au nord jusqu'au point de rencontre avec e parallèle 21° 20′ de latitude nord, La frontière se continuera à l'est sur le 21° 20′ de latitude nord jusqu'à l'intersection de ce parallèle avec le méridien 15° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich). De ce point, la ligne de démarcation s'élèvera dans la direction du nord-ouest en décrivant, entre les méridiens 15° 20′ et 16° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° et 14° ouest de Greenwich), une courbe qui sera tracée de façon à laisser à la France, avec leurs dépendances, les salines de la région d'Idjil, de la rive extérieure desquelles la frontière se tiendra à une distance d'au moins 20 kilom. Du point de rencontre de la dite courbe avec le méridien 15° 20′ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich), la frontière gagnera aussi directement que possible l'intersection du tropique du cancer avec le méridien 14° 20′ ouest de Paris (12° ouest de Greenwich), et se prolongera sur ce dernier méridien dans la direction du nord.

Il est entendu que, dans la région du Cap Blanc, la délimitation qui devra y être effectuée par la Commission Spéciale visée à l'Article VIII de la présente Convention, s'opérera de façon que la partie occidentale de la péninsule, y compris la baie de l'ouest, soit attribuée à l'Espagne, et que le Cap Blanc proprement dit et la partie orientale de la même péninsule demeurent à la France.

ARTICLE II.

Dans le chenal situé entre la pointe du Cap Blanc et le banc de la Bayadère, ainsi que dans les eaux de la Baie du Lévrier, limitée par une ligne reliant l'extrémité du Cap Blanc à la pointe dite de la Coquille (carte de détail (A) juxtaposée à la carte formant l'Annexe 2

à la présente Convention), les sujets Espagnols continueront comme par le passé à exercer l'industrie de la pêche concurremment avec les ressortissants Français. Sur le rivage de la dite baie, les pêcheurs Espagnols pourront se livrer à toutes les opérations accessoires de la même industrie telles que séchage des filets, réparations des engins, préparation du poisson. Dans les mêmes limites, ils pourront élever des constructions légères et établir des campements provisoires, ces constructions et campements devant être enlevés par les pêcheurs Espagnols toutes les fois qu'ils reprendront la haute mer, le tout à la condition expresse de ne porter atteinte, en aucun cas ni en aucun temps, aux propriétés publiques ou privées.

ARTICLE III.

Le sel extrait des salines de la région de l'Idjil et acheminé directement par terre sur les possessions Espagnoles de la côte du Sahara ne sera soumis à aucun droit d'exportation.

ARTICLE IV.

La limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée partira du point d'intersection du thalweg de la Rivière Mouni avec une ligne droite tirée de la pointe Coco Beach à la pointe Diéké. Elle remontera ensuite le thalweg de la Rivière Mouni et celui de la Rivière Outemboni jusqu'au point où cette dernière rivière est coupée pour la première fois par le 1er degré de latitude nord et se confondra avec ce parallèle jusqu'à son intersection avec le 9e degré de longitude est de Paris (11° 20′ est de Greenwich).

De ce point la ligne de démarcation sera formée par le dit méridien 9 est de Paris jusqu'à sa rencontre avec la frontière méridionale de la Colonie Allemande de Cameroun.

ARTICLE V

Les navires Français jouiront pour l'accès par mer de la Rivière Mouni, dans les eaux territoriales Espagnoles, de toutes les facilités dont pourront bénéficier les navires Espagnols. Il en sera de même, à titre de réciprocité, pour les navires Espagnols dans les eaux territoriales Françaises.

La navigation et la pêche seront libres pour les ressortissants Français et Espagnols dans les Rivières Mouni et Outemboni.

La police de la navigation et de la pêche dans ces rivières, dans les eaux territoriales Françaises et Espagnoles aux abords de l'entrée de la Rivière Mouni, ainsi que les autres questions relatives aux rapports entre frontaliers, les dipositions concernant l'éclairage, le balisage, l'aménagement et la jouissance des eaux feront l'objet d'arrangements concertés entre les deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE VI.

Les droits et avantages qui découlent des Articles II, III, et V de la présente Convention, étant stipulés à raison du caractère commun ou limitrophe des baies, embouchures, rivières, et territoires susmentionnés, seront exclusivement réservés aux ressortissants des deux Hautes Parties Contractantes et ne pourront en aucune façon être transmis ou concédés aux ressortissants d'autres nations.

ARTICLE VII.

Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Espagnol voudrait céder, à quelque titre que ce fût, en tout ou en partie, les possessions qui lui sont reconnues par les Articles I et IV de la présente Convention, ainsi que les Iles Elobey et l'Ile Corisco voisines du littoral du Congo Français, le Gouvernement Français jouira d'un droit de préférence dans des conditions semblables à celles qui seraient proposées au dit Gouvernement Espagnol.

ARTICLE VIII.

Les frontières déterminées par la présente Convention sont inscrites sous les réserves formulées dans l'Annexe No. 1 à la présente Convention, sur les cartes ci-jointes (Annexes Nos. 2 et 3).

Les deux Gouvernements s'engagent à désigner dans le délai de quatre mois à compter de la date de l'échange des ratifications, des Commissaires qui seront chargés de tracer sur les lieux les lignes de démarcation entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles, en conformité et suivant l'esprit des dispositions de la présente Convention.

Il est entendu entre les deux Puissances Contractantes qu'aucun changemen ultérieur dans la position du thalweg des Rivières Mouni et Outemboni n'affectera les droits de propriété sur les îles qui auront été attribuées à chacune des deux Puissances par le procès-verbal des Commissaires dûment approuvé par les deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE IX.

Les deux Puissances Contractantes s'engagent réciproquement à traiter avec bienveillance les Chefs qui, ayant eu des Traités avec l'une d'elles, se trouveront en vertu de la présente Convention passer sous la souveraineté de l'autre.

ARTICLE X.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée, et les ratifications en seront échangées à Paris dans le délai de six mois ou plus tôt, si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi, les Soussignés ont dressé la présente Convention, qu'ils ont revêtue de leur cachet.

Fait à Paris, en double exemplaire, le 27 Juin, 1900.

(L.S.) (Signé) DELCASSÉ.
(L.S.) (Signé) F. DE LEON Y CASTILLO.

Annexe No. 1.

Bien que le tracé des lignes de démarcation sur les cartes annexées à la présente Convention (Annexes Nos. 2 et 3) soit supposé être généralement exact, il ne peut être considéré comme une représentation absolue, correcte de ces lignes, jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été confirmé par de nouveaux levés.

Il est donc convenu que les Commissaires ou Délégués locaux des deux pays qui seront chargés, par la suite, de délimiter tout ou partie des frontières sur le terrain, devront se baser sur la description des frontières telle qu'elle est formulée dans la Convention. Il leur sera loisible, en même temps, de modifier les dites lignes de démarcation en vue de les déterminer avec une plus grande exactitude et de rectifier la position des lignes de partage des chemins ou rivières, ainsi que des villages indiqués dans les cartes susmentionnées.

Les changements ou corrections proposés d'un commun accord par les dits Commissaires ou Délégués seront soumis à l'approbation des Gouvernements respectifs.

(Signé) DELCASSÉ.
F. DE LEON Y CASTILLO.

No. 212.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 103.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1900.

THE Spanish Ambassador, when he called at the Foreign Office to-day, said that a reply had been received from the Moorish Government to the proposal made to them by the Spanish Government that the coast between Wad Nun and Bojador should be ceded to Spain in lieu of Ifni.

The reply, his Excellency stated, was to the effect that the Moorish Government would consult Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 214*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 5, 1900.

THE Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires called on me this morning and, in the course of conversation, informed me that the Spanish Minister at Lisbon had communicated to the Portuguese Government the Spanish project for exchanging Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Dia and Cape Bogador. M. d'Oliveira said that the Spanish Minister at Lisbon had declared that Her Majesty's Government approved of the project; and that he had been instructed to obtain the co-operation of Portugal in recommending the scheme to the Moorish Government.

I told M. d'Oliveira that there had been a misunderstanding as to the approval of Her Majesty's Government having been secured. I said that, when the subject was broached by the Spanish Ambassador in London, your Lordship had merely informed his Excellency that at first sight the project did not appear to be one to which objection need be raised, but that before pronouncing a definite opinion on the subject, your Lordship wished to examine the question more closely.

It was, I added, clearly a matter on which the opinion and wishes of the Moorish Government should be first considered; and Her Majesty's Government had in no wise committed themselves to an approval of the project or to pressing its acceptance on the Sultan of Morocco.

M. d'Oliveira remarked that the exchange which Spain proposed to make might open the door to similar requests from other Powers; and it seemed to him that the Sultan would hardly be disposed to acquiesce in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 213.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 96. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1900.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 132, Secret, of the 27th ultimo, giving an account of your conversation with the Spanish Minister with regard to the proposed exchange of Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador.

The language used by you to M. de Ojeda, as reported in that despatch, has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 214.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 133.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 1, 1900.

AN important Shereef, Ma-el-Aineen, or "Bou-el-Ayoun," as he is generally called, and who claims as his country the portion of the coast from the Sagiat-el-Hamra, near Cape Juby, to Cape Bojador, has recently returned to his residence, having received many presents from the Sultan of Morocco. His Majesty has also sent materials and builders to erect a house for the Shereef near Cape Juby, and apparently it is intended to secure the influence and goodwill of the Shereef in establishing the authority of the Sultan on the coast-line from Cape Juby to Cape Bojador.

I am informed that shortly after the signature of the Cape Juby Agreement the Sultan of Morocco opened negotiations with the Shereef through a Moor who had received military training in the German army. The envoy reported that the Shereef lived on a oasis situated about a day's journey from Cape Juby, and that his followers owned large herds of camels, which they bartered for grain with Morocco Moors, Glimim and Tenduf, old caravan centres for the Timbuctoo-Morocco trade.

The Shereef is said to be on intimate terms with the Sheikh of Atav, in the Advar. His followers when in Mogador gave it to be understood that their Chief would have no objection to Christians coming to their country, provided that the consent of the Sultan was previously obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 215.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 87.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1900.

I APPROVE the language used by you to the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires, as reported in your despatch No. 134 of the 5th instant, relative to the project of the Spanish Government to exchange Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 216.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 136. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 90 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I explained to Kaïd Maclean that there had been a misapprehension in regard to the approval of Her Majesty's Government having been secured to the

proposal of the Spanish Government that Ifni should be exchanged for the coast line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador. I informed Kaïd Maclean that your Lordship had merely stated that at first sight the proposal did not seem one to which Her Majesty's Government need raise objections, but that you would wish to have the opportunity of examining it before giving a definite answer.

I added that your Lordship had expressed no opinion in favour of any action distasteful to the Moorish Government; and that as the proposed exchange of territory appeared to be disliked by the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government did not feel justified in urging its acceptance.

Kaïd Maclean took an opportunity of communicating the substance of the above privately to the Sultan; and His Majesty has expressed his grateful thanks for the terms of the message.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 217.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 290. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November* 12, 1900.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 216, Confidential, of the 9th ultimo, I asked Baron von Richthofen whether the German Government had received any reports on the subject of the arrival at Tangier of anarchists released from Barcelona who had been refused admission to other countries.

Baron von Richthofen replied at once that such reports had been received, but when I inquired whether the German Government intended to bring the matter to the notice of the Spanish Government, his Excellency said that he was not then in a position to answer the question.

Baron von Richthofen referred to the subject again this afternoon, and said that the German Government did not intend to make any representations at Madrid with the view of checking the arrival of anarchists at Tangier, where they would be probably less dangerous and more easily watched than in Europe. The German Government had, however, called the attention of the Spanish Government to the advisability of strengthening and improving the detective police force at the disposal of the Spanish Minister, and had received assurances that this should be done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 218.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 29.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 20, 1900.

THE Russian Minister informed me this morning that the Spanish Minister had spoken to him in regard to the proposal to exchange Ifni for the coast-line between Wad Draa and Cape Bojador, and had, so I understood, explained to him that although the Spanish Government do not consider the territory in question to be of any real value, yet that they desired to forestall any other foreign Power acquiring possession of it.

I inquired of M. de Bacheracht whether he had received any instructions from his Government on the subject, and whether the Spanish Minister had requested his support in negotiating the question with the Moorish Government. He answered both questions in the negative, but added that M. de Ojeda had told him that, from information received by the Spanish Government, instructions from St. Petersburgh would shortly reach him.

As M. de Bacheracht appeared to be under the impression that Her Majesty's Government had approved the proposed exchange, I explained to him what had passed between Lord Salisbury and the Spanish Ambassador in London.

M. de Bacheracht informed me that when the Spanish Minister was at the Moorish Court in the spring of this year, he had been instructed to say a friendly word to the Moorish Government in favour of Ifni being ceded to Spain in accordance with Article VIII

of the Spanish Treaty of 1860. This he had done, and had received a reply from the Moorish Government that the negotiations with the Spanish Minister on the question were proceeding satisfactorily.

I mention the above to your Lordship as I was not aware that the good offices of Russia had been obtained in support of the Spanish negotiations with the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 219.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 29.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 21, 1900.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that the attitude and action of a powerful Governor in the Sefroo district named Omar-al-Yusi, are causing uneasiness and disturbances in the Fez district. Hitherto his adherents have limited their operations to raiding traders and rendering the roads unsafe, and they have so far succeeded as to cause the direct route between Fez and Tafilelt to be abandoned by the caravans.

The object which Kaid Omar has in view is not as yet clear, and it is rumoured that he is endeavouring to enlist to his cause the more turbulent spirits in Tafilelt and on the Algerian frontier. It would be unfortunate in view of recent events on the Algerian frontier and in the Tuat oasis, if this movement were to assume larger proportions, as it might create serious disturbances, and thereby give occasion for precautionary measures on the part of the French military authorities.

The Moorish Government, I understand, is alive to the necessity of promptly repressing the disturbances, and an expedition is being prepared at Morocco city, whose orders, I am privately informed, are to arrest Kaid Omar, if possible, and to bring him to the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 220.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 29.)

(No. 139. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 21, 1900.

THE Spanish Minister told me yesterday that his Government had informed him that the United States' Ambassador at Paris was about to proceed to Tangier accompanied by a squadron of American men-of-war to enforce the settlement of some American claims. M. de Ojeda inquired whether I had any information on the subject, and I replied in the negative, and said that I was not aware that there were any American claims of so pressing and important a nature as to require such drastic measures.

I subsequently took an opportunity of asking the United States' Representative whether he was expecting General Porter with a flotilla of men-of-war, and he told me that he had heard nothing of such an intention.

He would, however, inform me confidentially that as he could obtain no satisfaction in regard to some American claims, especially for the modest indemnity of 5,000 dollars demanded on behalf of the family of the murdered American protégé at Fez, he had asked his Government for the "moral support" of a man-of-war in pressing these matters. He had not as yet received any reply.

I mention this matter as I notice in the public press several allusions to possible American action in these waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 221.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 140. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 92, Secret, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I communicated with Kaïd Maclean in the sense and manner desired, and I have received a letter from him stating that the Sultan is grateful for the informal steps taken by Her Majesty's Government at Paris, and wishes to convey his sincere thanks and satisfaction. I have been informed that the Moorish Government is disturbed by the establishment by the French military authorities of a large standing camp close to the gates of Figuig, and that the Deputy of the Sultan in Tangier has been instructed to draw the attention of the French Legation to the subject, and to ask for explanations. The frontier, I believe, according to French views, runs within 2 or 3 miles of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 222.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 22, 1900.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires called to see me to-day and informed me that the Spanish Minister had been speaking to him in regard to the proposal that the coast from Wad Draa to Cape Bojador should be ceded by the Sultan to Spain in exchange for Ifni, M. de la Martinière said that, in the first place, it appeared to him premature on the part of the Spanish Government to raise the question of exchanging Ifni before they had actually taken possession of it, and in the second place he was of opinion that the cession of the coast-line in question was to be deprecated. The possession of that territory by Spain would be of no value to her, and would be a cause of injury to French interests, as he was convinced that the only trade which would be undertaken would be in arms and munitions of war, and the French authorities had no desire to see the tribes in the hinterland of the coast supplied with these articles. The recent Franco-Spanish Agreement as to the respective spheres in the Rio d'Oro and Adrar had now been ratified by the Chambers in Paris. The object of France in making this Agreement was to facilitate the eventual junction of her Algerian possessions with those in Timbuctoo; and the first steps towards that end had been taken by the occupation of the Tuat oases. It would clearly enhance the difficulties of the task if the tribes could obtain arms and ammunition through a Spanish possession within easy sail from the Canaries.

He had understood from the Spanish Minister that Spain was afraid lest some foreign Power should occupy the coast-line, and was, therefore, desirous of forestalling such an event. M. de la Martinière said it was clear that France was the Power to whom allusion was made, and it was absurd to imagine for a moment that his country would wish to annex a coast-line of no value whatever, and run the risk of raising unpleasant international questions. This fear on the part of Spain was an illusion, and he was sure it was not seriously entertained. The project was merely mooted to please public opinion in Spain.

He asked me if Her Majesty's Government had recognized the Sultan's authority as far as Cape Bojador, and I replied in the affirmative. He said he believed that the Sultan had engaged not to alienate territory in that part of his dominions without the concurrence of the British Government, and it seemed to him that this should be considered by Spain as a sufficient guarantee against any other foreign Power establishing herself there.

I said that as I understood him he would then prefer that the territory in question should remain under the sovereignty of the Sultan; and he said that was certainly his opinion, and he believed it would also be the view of his Government. He had received no official information from Paris as to the Spanish project; but he thought it would not be favourably received there. Moreover, it would be dangerous for the Sultan of Morocco to cede so considerable a portion of his territory. France was anxious to see

the integrity of the Sultan's dominions preserved, and although she had never formally acknowledged that they extended so far south as Cape Bojador, still the cession of the coast-line, for it was ridiculous to speak of an exchange, would in the eyes of many have the appearance of the beginning of the dismemberment of the Moorish Empire. With this view I expressed my concurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 223.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 28, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 139 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that General Porter, the United States' Ambassador in Paris, made a short stay at Tangier at the end of last week, but his visit was without any connection with any questions pending between the United States and the Moorish Government; and was prompted solely by a wish to see the United States' Representative here who is an old and intimate friend. General Porter did not pay any visits to the Moorish officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 224.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 600.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to Colonel Dawson's despatch No. 81, inclosed in Sir E. Monson's despatch No. 510 of the 24th October, and to previous despatches, reporting French military preparations in South Algeria, I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Temps" which contains a semi-official communiqué, stating that what is contemplated is the "pacific conquest" of the territories in which operations were undertaken last summer, and adding that a surveying party under strong escort is about to set out to lay down the course of the line of railway from Djenien-bou-Rezg to Igli.

I inclose also an interesting Memorandum drawn uy Mr. O'Beirne, giving some information regarding the oasis of Figuig and the neighbouring tribes, and showing the inconvenience arising to France from the presence of the Moroccan oasis on the edge of the projected railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 224.

Extract from the "Temps" of November 21, 1900.

DIFFÉRENTS journaux ont parlé à plusieurs reprises de projets relatifs à la campagne d'hiver dans les oasis Sahariennes (Sud Oranais, Gourara, Touat, et Tidikelt).

Dans les cercles bien informés on croit savoir que ces renseignements sont prématurés.

Avant de quitter Paris, le Gouverneur-Général a reçu à ce sujet des instructions très précises, délibérées en Conseil des Ministres. Il s'agit, en somme, d'assurer la conquête pacifique des territoires où nous avons dû faire l'été dernier des opérations devenues nécessaires pour la sécurité de notre commerce et de notre domination.

Le Général Grisot, qui se trouve actuellement à Paris pour y suivre les séances du Comité Supérieur de Classement, s'inspirant des instructions qui lui ont été transmises, doit soumettre au Gouvernement des résolutions définitives en ce qui concerne la relève des troupes de l'Extrême Sud Algérien.

Une Mission d'Études accompagnée d'une forte escorte va se mettre en route pour arrêter le tracé définitif du prolongement du chemin de fer de Djenien-bou-Rezg à Igli.

Le Gouvernement Général et le Commandant du 19e Corps sont d'accord pour saisir les Ministères intéressés d'un état de prévisions de dépenses aussi exactement établi que possible et proportionnant les sacrifices à demander aux résultats à atteindre.

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Memorandum by Mr. O'Beirne on the Oasis of Figuig and the neighbouring Tribes.

THE central part of the oasis of Figuig is only about 13 miles distant to the westward from Duveyrier (El Zoubia), the last point which the Oran–Ainsefra Railway is reported to have reached in its advance southwards. Groups of date palms belonging to the inhabitants of the oasis, and cultivated by them, extend as far east as Duveyrier, so that the railway when prolonged towards Igli will probably run through lands forming a dependency of Figuig proper. The main oasis extends over 4 miles east and west. It includes eight distinct villages ("ksour"), each of which is walled in for purposes of war, the different ksour being constantly engaged in hostilities between themselves. There are also certain works intended for the external defence of the oasis, but they are of little importance, and would be useless except perhaps against an attack of tribesmen. The population of the oasis is at the lowest estimate 10,000. The two most powerful ksour, those of the Zenaga and the Ouled Sliman, can furnish 1,600* and 400 riflemen respectively. The Zenaga are so much stronger than any of the other ksour that they are virtually masters of the oasis. They are, like most of the other inhabitants, of Berber race.

Although Figuig is one of the two places designated under the name of "ksour" in the Treaty of 1845 as belonging to Morocco, it lies about 25 miles to the eastward or Algerian side of the Teniet-el-Sassi, the southernmost point of the boundary-line specified by the Treaty. A Confidential Map† drawn in 1843 by the Government of Algeria giving the "frontière présumée" between Algeria and Morocco, places Figuig considerably on the Algerian side of the border. Morocco has twice (in 1697 and 1806) occupied the place with her troops, but never apparently succeeded in establishing her authority over it in a permanent fashion. The oasis was practically independent at the time of the French appearance in Algeria, and seems to have submitted to the nominal domination of the Sultan prior to 1845 only from fear of the French advance.

The French have for long found the oasis serve as a place of refuge for Algerian tribesmen in revolt, and for Morocco tribes (and notably the Amour) engaged in hostilities with France. The religious leader, Bou Amama, who has given the French arms so much trouble, has established himself there since 1894. When the place was entered by a French column last August, only to be evacuated immediately afterwards, they were received in a friendly manner by Bou Amama.

Of the Nomad tribes frequenting the neighbourhood of Figuig the most powerful is that of the Arabs, Eumour, Sahra, or Amour. The Amour range over the country to the north of the oasis and constantly camp outside it. They are among the tribes assigned to Morocco by the 1845 Treaty, but as the result of the frequent hostilities in which they have been engaged with the French forces numerous fractions of the tribe have made their submission to France. It is noticeable that three of these, the Ouled Gottib, Medabih, and Ouled Abdallah have permanent encampments round the oasis.

To the south of Figuig and extending considerably to the west of it is the country ranged over by the Ouled Djerir. These are not mentioned by name in the Treaty of 1845, but they are a branch of the great Arab tribe of Hamian, and the Treaty specifies that all the Hamian are under the Dominion of Algeria except the Hamian Djenba. The French are thus in the anomalous position of having Treaty rights over a country considerably to the westward of Figuig, which is itself reserved to Morocco. Although the Ouled Djerir are nominally Algerian, we find them joining the Beni Guil in attacking the French last spring. The Beni Guil country lies well to the west of

* These figures date from 1882. See Captain de Castries' "Notes sur Figuig."
† Printed in "Documents sur le Nord-Ouest Africain," by Lamartinière (not given to the public).

Ouled Djerir and clearly within the sphere of Morocco. They are an Arab tribe and assigned to Morocco by the Treaty, though not under practical control of the Sultan. On the southern border of the Beni Guil country is the important Ksar of Ain Chair which was attacked, but not taken, by General Wimpffen in 1870 in a campaign against the Beni Guil and the Doui Menia.

It has recently been pointed out in the Colonial press that though the Beni Guil are assigned by the Treaty to Morocco, Ain Chair is not; and the occupation of Ain Chair by the French would deprive Figuig of so much of its importance that the Figuig question would be indirectly solved.

A fourth tribe intimately associated with the oasis of Figuig is that of the Doui Menia, Berber nomads ranging over the country south and south-west of the Ouled Djerir. They are not mentioned by name in the Treaty; and the Sultan has shown some uneasiness at the movements of French forces in their country. Their range extends both sides of the projected railway between Duveyrier and Igli.

The inconvenience of leaving Figuig standing as a practically independent and semi-hostile *enclave* on the borders of South Algeria has long been recognized and insisted upon by Algerian officials, civil and military. The French Government have hitherto refused to disregard the right of Morocco to the oasis under the Treaty; but a variety of circumstances, briefly indicated above, make its occupation by France seem, sooner or later, inevitable. Its position on the edge of the railway, the part it plays as a refuge and a base for tribes hostile to France, its close association with tribes which belong to France by Treaty, or have submitted to her as the result of hostilities—all combine to bring about that result; and the dispatch of an armed surveying party towards Igli seems likely to bring the question to a head.

(Signed) HUGH O'BEIRNE.

December 5, 1900.

No. 225.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 143.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 4, 1900.

A PORTION of the Spanish and local press here having published reports of a considerable agitation among the Moorish tribes around Ceuta in consequence of a rumoured intention of the Spanish authorities to erect some forts outside the Spanish rayon, I inquired of my Spanish colleague whether he had any information on the subject.

M. de Ojeda told me that he had received a few days ago a telegram from the Governor of Ceuta, asking the reason why the Moors had suddenly ceased from bringing their produce to the Ceuta market. He had consequently addressed himself to the Sultan's deputy here, who had assured him that the abstention of the Moors had been solely caused by the manœuvres of some agitators, who had disseminated a story that the Spanish authorities would shortly take forcible possession of the wells belonging to the tribes in order to increase the Ceuta water supply. This misunderstanding had been at once removed, and the Moors had again frequented the Ceuta market.

M. de Ojeda, on the occasion of his recent mission to the Moorish Court, obtained a promise from the Sultan that the Ceuta garrison would be permitted to lay down pipes to the wells if this Concession in no wise diminished the water supply of the neighbouring tribes. A Commission of Moorish officials is now on the spot to inquire into the matter, and as the tribes have already expressed their objection to their water supply being conveyed to Ceuta, there is little doubt that the Commission will report against the scheme. M. de Ojeda is himself of opinion that the report will be unfavourable to the grant of the Concession, but he told me that the question was not of great importance, as, though an increased water supply would be an advantage, it was not by any means an urgent necessity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 226.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 606.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 12, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, on the subject of military movements in Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Lieutenunt-Colonel Douglas Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

Sir, *Paris, December* 12, 1900.

THE following military movements are notified from Algeria:—

The 5th Battalion African Light Infantry has been transferred from Foundouck-Djedid to Gabes.

The head-quarters of the 4th Battalion African Light Infantry, the "gros" of the battalion having left for Indo-China, has left Gabes for Kairouan.

The 7th Supply Convoy for Igli left Ain-Sefra on the 10th instant, escorted by the 4th Battalion of the 2nd Tirailleurs and two "pelotons" of the 2nd Spahis. This same escort repulsed the attack of 1,200 Dani-Menid on the 30th July last.

At the end of December, a Commission for the study of railways will leave Djenan-Eddar for Kenassa in the Wadi Ghir, which it will descend as far as Igli. This Commission will be escorted by two infantry battalions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 227.

Mr. L. Farrell to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 14.)

37, *Ossington Street, Kensington Gardens, London,*
December 14, 1900.

Sir,

WILL you be good enough to give me your opinion on the following matter regarding the territory in the north-west of Africa between Capes Nun (or Non) and Bianco, and having a coast-line of some 600 to 700 miles.

The Kings of Tikua (Elhamra River) and Adrar, the capital of which is Atar, have granted a Charter for trading, mining, and other rights over their two kingdoms to one Sheikh or Chief, who is over here. The Charter is of course in Arabic, and is also accompanied by a general permission or passport by the holyman (chief priest), the so-called Sheikh-el-Islam. Both Kings have affixed their respective seals, and according to the Sheikh and his friends, they are anxious that an English Company should take up this Charter and develop their country, which is supposed to be very rich.

After due inquiries and research generally I have learned that these two kingdoms cover an area of about 200,000 square miles; that they are to all intents and purposes independent, but that Spain has a claim on the coast-line of Adrar, from Cape Blanco to Cape Bojador. That claim, however, has never been sustained, and the only point at which they have a semblance of authority is Rio de Oro. From Cape Bojador to Cape Juby, where I believe there are Englishmen trading now, and thence to Cape Nun, I cannot find or even trace any information as to claims, possession or otherwise, by any other Power or Powers. The proximity, however, of the Empire of Morocco, and also the fiasco of the "Tourmaline" expedition, though this latter landed distinctly in Moorish territory and therefore met their well-deserved fate, make me and my friends uneasy as to whether it would be safe for an English Company to take up this Charter and work these countries, and we should be much

obliged to you for any information you can give us on these countries; certain is, that neither the Sheikh nor his Kings (he claims to be a near relative to both) have been recognized here, and according to the Sheikh's statement, his Kings do not pay any tribute to either Spain or Morocco; they do, however, recognize that their territories will be French before long, unless they can come to some arrangement with us.

Waiting the favour of your reply, I am, &c.
(Signed) LEONARD FARRELL.

No. 228.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 611.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 14, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting the situation in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 99.)
Sir, *Paris, December* 14, 1900.

THE "France Militaire" has an article entitled, "The situation in Morocco." Being the principal military journal in France I have thought it worth while to call attention to remarks (by which it is sought to influence the French army) of which the following is the sense:—

"The Sultan of Morocco is much troubled by the progress made by the revolutionary movement among his tribes.

"The insurgents being armed with repeating rifles of latest model proves that certain Powers are behind the movement. The very Powers who provide these arms surreptitiously to the tribes favour openly the armament of the Sultan's troops.

"It is well known that England and Germany are here concerned, and the support they tender the Shereefian Government is certainly directed against France. But is not the agitation which they so carefully nourish destined to furnish them with an excuse for intervention?

"Spain is already alarmed at this continual influx of arms from Germany, and the Madrid Cabinet is considering a proposal to the Powers to prohibit the importation of war material into Morocco.

"The Sultan, beginning to perceive the double game of his advisers, would turn towards France, and is about to send a Mission here.

"We have always maintained that our efforts should be directed towards acquiring preponderance in Morocco, with the object of forcing the Sultan himself to ask for the Protectorate of France. It is to be hoped this occasion will be seized on to advance our interests.

"In Morocco diplomatic action is powerless without the support of the religious Chiefs. The Chief Mokaddem of the Zaouia of Moulai Idris at Fez, who is all-powerful in the north, must be gained over. This Zaouia, with the exception of that of Ouazzan, is the centre of all that is religious, intellectual, and important. The Mokaddem of this Zaouia is at any rate the most influential: for he controls, criticizes, and sometimes opposes the Sultan, who often consults him on questions of importance, and whose only influence over the turbulent populations of the Riff is obtained through the medium of this overwhelming religious inspiration. This man must be made to play our game before others get hold of him.

"The Zaouia of Ouazzan, very powerful in Northern Morocco and the Province of Oran, has been won over to France; why should not the same success be achieved in Fez?

"The religious association which holds its sway at Ouazzan is the order of Moulai Taieb, common in origin with Moulai Idris, founder of the brotherhood, whose head centre is at Fez. To-day the two orders are rivals, by reason of the fact that one is

under French influence, while the other lends its support to the Morocco Makhzen; but this condition of things might be changed if we could make it be understood that the only future for Morocco lies in a French Protectorate.

"The Sultan seems disposed to modify his traditional policy, and there has never been so favourable a moment for action as the present."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 229.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 19, 1900.*

MY telegram No. 35 of the 11th instant.

Orders have been given by the Sultan for the immediate payment of the indemnity demanded on account of the murder of the American citizen at Fez, and regret has been expressed for it.

The most acute of the questions pending between the United States' and the Moorish Governments is therefore removed.

No. 230.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 105.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 19, 1900.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris by the Military Attaché,* in which Colonel Dawson gives the substance of an article on the situation in Morocco from a newspaper entitled "La France Militaire."

I request that you will inform me whether anything is known at Tangier of the intention of the Sultan to send a Mission to France, as reported in the above-mentioned article.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 231.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 146. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 12, 1900.*

THE United States' Representative has informed me that he has been instructed by cable from Washington to make preparations for proceeding to the Moorish Court, and at the same time his Government acquainted him that he would be accompanied down the coast by a battle-ship and a cruiser.

I inquired of Mr. Gummeré whether his mission to the Court would merely be for the purpose of presenting his credentials, or whether he would at the same time press for a settlement of his outstanding claims.

Mr. Gummeré replied that he had little doubt that he would be instructed to carry out both the above objects, and he presumed that the presence of two ships of war was intended to emphasize the demands he should have to present.

He told me that he had some time ago informed his Government that he had exhausted all the means at his disposal for obtaining the settlement of his claims, amounting in all to about 13,000*l.*, and that he had suggested the dispatch of a man-of-war to the coast. The troubles in China and the Presidential election had delayed his proposal being taken into serious consideration, but now he presumed his Government had decided to act upon it. He would, he said, doubtless receive full instructions

* Inclosure in No. 228.

by post, and he had telegraphed to his Government to the effect that it was of no advantage his leaving Tangier before February, as the Ramadan month of fast would shortly commence, during which no business could be transacted.

He begged me to treat as strictly confidential what he had told me, but I may add that a portion of the public press has already occupied itself with the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 232.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 21.)

(No 147.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 13, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 143 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Commission has returned to Tangier from Ceuta. The members of the Commission are somewhat reticent as to the results of their inquiries; but I am given to understand that they will report to the Sultan that it would be advisable to revisit the locality at the end of next summer, when the wells and springs will be at their lowest, before finally deciding whether it would be prudent to allow the Ceuta garrison to procure water in the manner the Spanish Government desire.

The Mission was received with great honour at Ceuta, and has returned highly gratified with their reception by the Spanish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 233.

Foreign Office to Mr. L. Farrell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, relative to the territory in North-West Africa which lies between Cape Nun and Cape Blanco.

I am to inform you that the territory lying between Cape Nun and Cape Bojador has been recognized by Her Majesty's Government as belonging to Morocco, and that the coast-line between Cape Bojador and Cape Blanco is under the protection of Spain.

A Convention was this year concluded between France and Spain for the delimitation of the French and Spanish possessions in North-West Africa, and is now before the French Chamber previous to ratification. By that Convention Adrar (Tmarr), is left within French territory, while Adrar Sutuf is included in the territory attributed to Spain.

There is, however, no information in this Office as to whether any, and if so what, relations exist between France and Spain and the native Rulers of Adrar (Tmarr) and Adrar Sutuf respectively.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 234.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 19, 1900.*

THE United States' Representative informed me last night that he had received yesterday a note from Cid Mohammed Torres announcing to him the regret of the Sultan at the murder of the American naturalized citizen at Fez, and stating that His Majesty had given orders for the prompt payment of the indemnity of 5,000 dollars which the United States' Government had demanded.

Mr. Gummeré said that the note did not designate the murdered man as an American citizen, but merely termed him "Marcus the Jew." This expression was evidently adopted so as not to withdraw the contention of the Moorish Government that the deceased had lost his adopted American nationality by a lengthy sojourn in Morocco. It was not, Mr. Gummeré thought, worth while to pay attention to this detail, as the demand put forward by him had been substantially granted.

Mr. Gummeré said that the settlement of this question would take the sting out of his mission to the Court early next spring, and that he would present his letters and endeavour to settle the other American claims in an amicable manner. He would suggest to his Government that he should proceed down the coast in a cruiser alone, as is customary, and not have the additional escort of a battle-ship, so as to avoid giving the character of a demonstration to his mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 235.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 19, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to report that Kaid Omar did not await the advent of the expedition sent against him by the Sultan, but suddenly left for the Court with a very small following in the hope of being able to make his peace directly with His Majesty. I do not know what kind of reception he is likely to meet with, but being a man with powerful influence at the Court, and of strong character, it is possible that he may succeed in coming to terms. It would in many respects be unfortunate if he were re-established in the position which he has so greatly abused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 236.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 24, 1900.

I AM informed that the German Minister has left Morocco city, having succeeded in bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the claims which were pending between the Moorish Government and his Legation. Baron de Mentzingen had also been requested by the Diplomatic Body to endeavour to come to an understanding with the Moorish Government in regard to several questions of public and general interest; but I am informed that these matters have been referred back again to Tangier for discussion between the foreign Representatives and the local authorities here. This is tantamount to postponing their settlement indefinitely.

Since the death of the late Grand Vizier, the Moorish Government has sought by all possible means to prevent direct intercourse between themselves and the foreign Legations. A Council, composed of five or six members, with the Sultan's deputy as President, has been appointed to sit in Tangier to deal with all affairs in which the Legations are severally interested. If the Council had been vested with any authority over the provincial Governors and other functionaries, this system might have its advantages; but as the Council appears to be only a deliberative assembly, with no executive powers, and simply reports to the Court, its institution merely leads to endless delays in the treatment of affairs.

The want of a central authority with whom to deal directly is seriously felt in all questions between the foreign Representatives and the Moorish Government. The late Grand Vizier had many faults, and his hand doubtless lay heavily on the country. Still, as he was in direct communication with the Legations, and could enforce decisions when such were arrived at, there was some prospect under his Government of bringing matters to a conclusion.

The Sultan, I fear, is entirely absorbed in his pastimes. He is devoted to

innocent, and, in a sense, possibly instructive amusements, but he has little time to give to public affairs, while the nominal Grand Vizier is a personage of no importance and of no power. The Minister of War, who enjoys predominant influence at the Court, is chiefly employed in assisting his master in the enjoyment of the freedom which His Majesty has acquired since the death of his late powerful Chief Minister, and has neither the experience nor the capacity, nor, indeed, the inclination, to deal with more serious matters. Complaints are general in regard to the laxity and indifference which are shown in the conduct of business, and it is to be hoped that the Sultan will eventually be awakened to the necessity of undertaking seriously the task of government.

The country, fortunately, is for the moment in a condition of profound tranquillity, and it is possible that the want of vigour at the centre of affairs is a pleasing change after the stern and exacting rule to which the people were subjected during the lifetime of the late Grand Vizier. Nevertheless, this agreeable situation is not likely to last long, as the old evils of administration still exist, and will probably soon again become active.

I wished, however, in this despatch to refer especially to the serious inconveniences which are being experienced in the conduct of affairs between the Legations and the Central Government, and which are increasing and becoming more vexatious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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